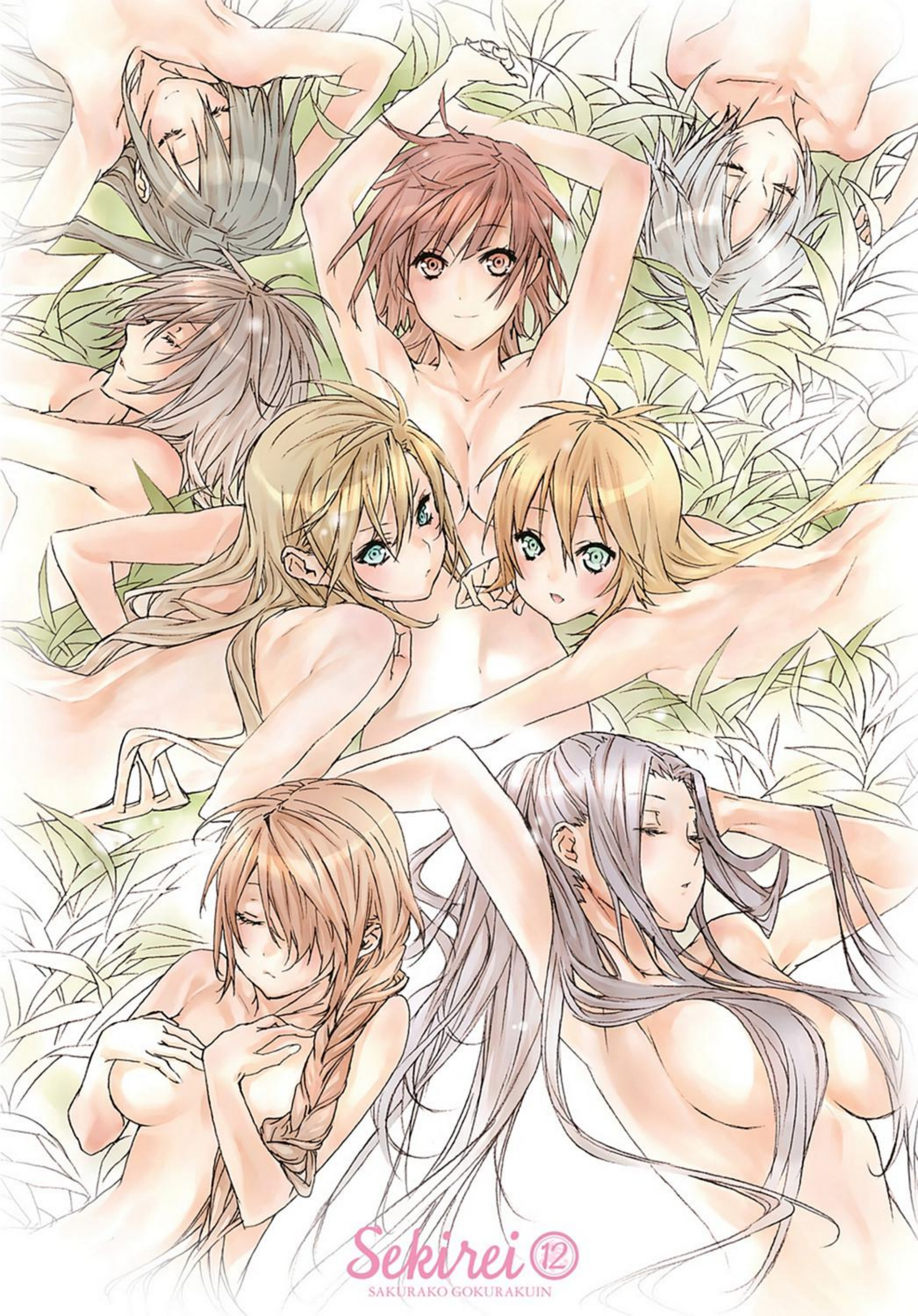
Sekirei
12
SAKURAKO
GOKURAKUIN


Sekirei 12
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

SEKIREI ⑫

Sakurako Gokurakuin

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Chapter 108: The Demon's Choice

THE DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD ...!?
...BUT WHY...?

LONG TIME NO SEE— SINCE THE THIRD ROUND, RIGHT?

GOOD AFTER-NOON.

OH... NO NEED TO BE ON GUARD.

WE'RE JUST HERE ON BUSINESS TODAY.

THE USUAL WORK FOR MBI, YOU KNOW.

WE'RE HERE TO RETRIEVE THE SEKIREI WHO'VE CEASED TO FUNCTION.
SO PLEASE...
...HAND HER OVER TO US.

FWOOM

FWOOM

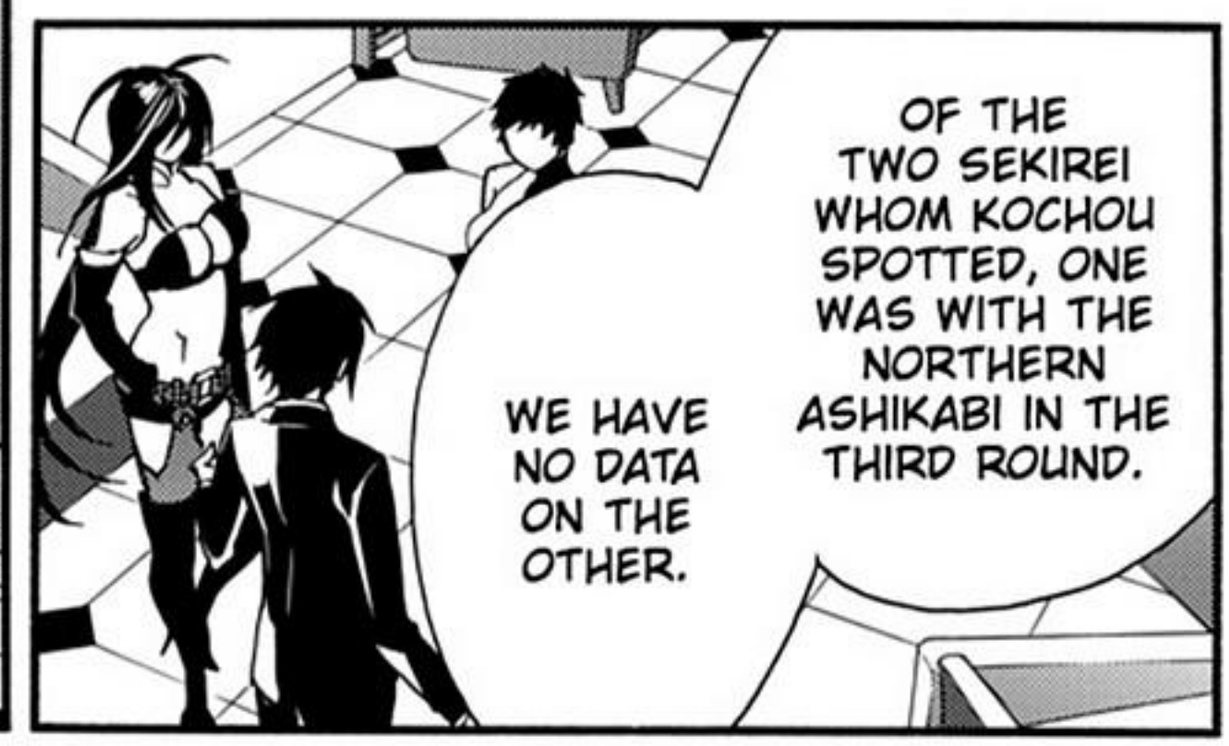
FWOOM

TRES-PASSERS?

WHAT ABOUT HIGA-SAMA?

HE'S IN AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT THE MOMENT. I CAN'T REACH HIM...

YES. GET TO HIYAMA CORP. HOSPITAL QUICKLY...


OF THE TWO SEKIREI WHOM KOCHOU SPOTTED, ONE WAS WITH THE NORTHERN ASHIKABI IN THE THIRD ROUND.
WE HAVE NO DATA ON THE OTHER.

HE WON'T TAKE ANY ACTION ON HIS OWN.
WE'VE NO NEED TO GUARD THAT ONE...

BELIEVE IN YOUR ASHIKABI, IF NO ONE ELSE.
WE'RE SEKIREI, AREN'T WE!?

...BELIEVE IN HER...

YUKARI-SAN...

MY ASHIKABI ...

SHIINA!

I KNOW SHE'S YOUR DARLING LITTLE SIS, SHIINA.

LET'S GIVE IT OUR ALL AND SEARCH FOR KU-CHAN.

ギゅっ
CLENCH

YUKARI-SAN...

I...

NO MATTER WHO YOU LIKE...

I...I...

YOUR ASHIKABI IS DIFFERENT.

BUT YOUR CASE IS DIFFERENT, RIGHT?

THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

...I NEVER HAD A CHOICE, Y'KNOW.

YUKARI-SAN, I...

RING

RING

RING

!!

IT SEEMS TO BE ON HIGA-SAMA'S PRIVATE FLOOR...

TH-THERE'S A FIRE, KAKIZAKI-SAN.

WHAT IS THAT !?

RING

RING

RING

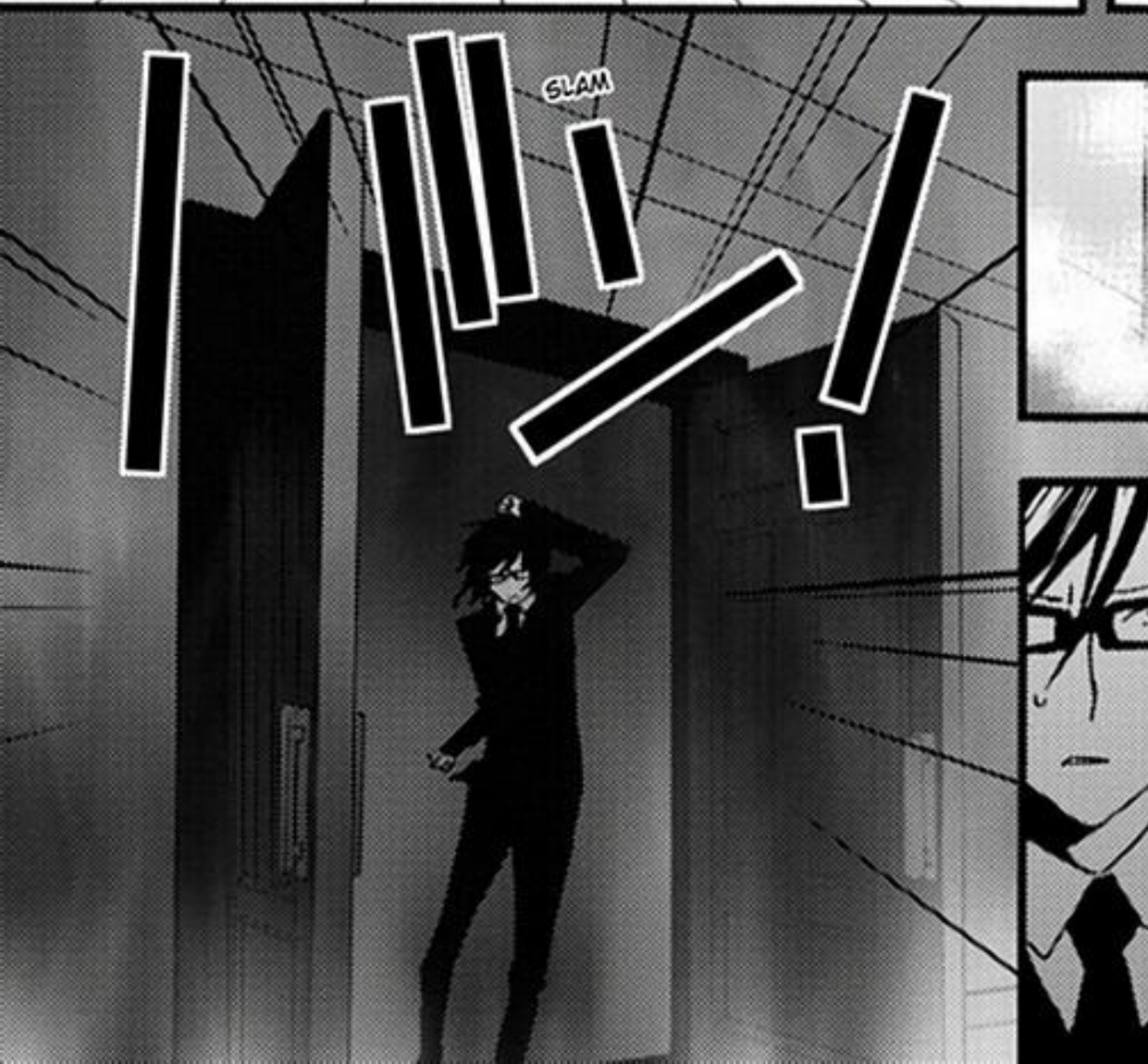
WHAT...IS THIS...?

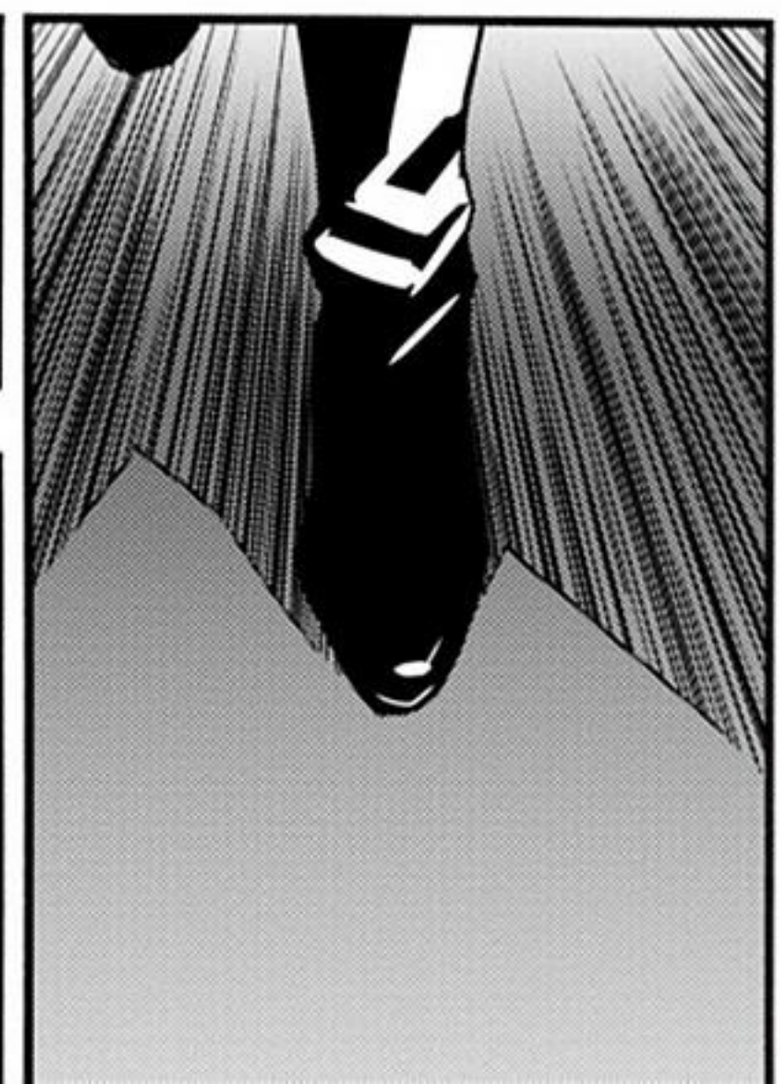
...WHAT...?

SHIINA!!

...SAN.....

YUKARI.....





THE DEMON... ASHIKABI ...!

H-HE... HIGA-SAMA'S IN AN IMPORTANT MEETING...

HMPH. REALLY? SHOW'S HOW MUCH I'M WORTH TO HIM.

...

...WHERE'S HIGA?

THE GIRL HE'S ITCHING TO MARRY IS WREATHED IN FLAME, SO WHY HASN'T HE COME RUNNING?

...DID YOU START THIS FIRE YOURSELF?

'COS I'M PRETTY SURE IMPRISONING A POOR LITTLE GIRL LIKE ME...

RIGHT BACK AT YA.

...AIN'T EXACTLY LEGAL.

THAT'S A CRIME, YOU KNOW.

RIGHT?

FWOOM

!!

SMASH

RIGHT.

I'M OUTTA HERE.

GIVE THAT GUY A MESSAGE FOR ME.

WE'RE ON THE 50TH FLOOR!!

D—

DON'T DO IT!!

HANDSOME OR NOT, THAT **OLD DUDE** NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

SO, SEE YA.

TRUTH IS, I PREFER... HOW DO I PUT THIS?

I LIKE YOUNG BOYS!! I'M A PERV!!

FLOAT

ぶい

ぶっ

HUMAN OR SEKIREI...

IT DOESN'T MATTER.

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME—!

I LIKE YOU, SHIINA.

NO. 10, IF YOU WILL...
...MINATO SAHASHI-SAN.

Chapter 109: Far-Off Hopes

Chapter 109: Far-Off Hopes

SIMPLY-DRAWN SEKIREI

...WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO WITH HER...?
WITH UZUME-SAN...?

ANYWAY, WHAT HAPPENS TO HER NOW IS A COMPANY SECRET, BUT...

WELL, YOU ARE RELATED TO AN EMPLOYEE.

HEH-HEH... TRUTH IS... WE ACTUALLY JUST CAME AS NATSUO'S BODYGUARDS...

BENI-TSU-BASA.

KEEP IT PROFES-SIONAL!

SO STOP PISSING ME OFF!

WE WEREN'T PLANNING TO MAKE TROUBLE THIS TIME.

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS HAND OVER NO. 10 !!

SHAD-DUP!

I SUSPECT YOU KNOW THE NATURE OF WHAT'S GOT HER OCCUPIED, ACTUALLY.

...THAT IS, CHIEF SAHASHI. BUT SHE'S TIED UP WITH OTHER BUSINESS AT THE MOMENT.

THIS "RETRIEVAL" WORK IS ORDINARILY CONDUCTED BY MY SUPERIOR.

YEAH, I ASKED HER TO WORK ON CURING CHIHO-SAN...

...! UZUME-SAN'S ASHIKABI—

YOU SHOULD THANK THE CEO.

THOUGH IT'S MOSTLY BECAUSE OF HIS GRUDGE AGAINST THAT *OPPOSING* CORPORATION.

...AND THEN SENT TO A SPECIAL FACILITY.

DEPENDING ON THE DAMAGE LEVEL, THEY'RE GIVEN SURGICAL TREATMENT...

THEY'RE STILL LIVING BEINGS, SO IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'VE EXACTLY CONQUERED "DEATH," BUT...

—ANYHOW, SEKIREI WHO'VE CEASED TO FUNCTION...

THERE, THEY CONTINUE TO SLEEP.

NO. 10 IS STILL ALIVE.

IN OTHER WORDS...

AS WE WASTE TIME TALKING HERE, SHE'S INCHING CLOSER AND CLOSER TOWARD TRUE DEATH.

BUT SHE ISN'T LOOKING TOO GOOD.

UZUME-SAN IS... ALIVE...!

.....IT REALLY DOESN'T TAKE MUCH THOUGHT TO DECIDE WHAT YOU OUGHT TO DO NOW, DOES IT?

SO WHILE I HATE TO INTERRUPT SUCH AN EMOTIONAL SCENE...

...UZUME
...
...HAS LEFT US, HAS SHE...?

FOR SEKIREI, A VANISHED CREST...
...IS THE SAME AS DEATH.
...NO.
MIYA .....
...LAND-LADY...
UZUME-SAN!
SHE'S ALIVE— HE SAID SO...
B-BUT SHE'S ALIVE!
.....IS TRULY GONE AND LOST FOREVER.
UZUME, WHO LIVED HERE WITH US...
THE GIRL WE ALL KNEW...

IT CAN'T BE...

HE SAID SHE'S ALIVE ...

SHE'S JUST GONNA SLEEP AT SOME FACILITY FOR A B—

THE JINKI.....

JUST... WHO ARE YOU.....?

LAND-LADY...?

...THERE IS BUT ONE WAY.

IF YOU WISH TO RETRIEVE THEM...

LOST BONDS...

!

...HOPE.

...DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE NECESSARY TO ACCEPT YOUR FATE?

...SAHASHI-SAN...

SINCE THE AGE OF GODS, HOPE IS ALL THAT REMAINS WHEN CALAMITY STRIKES.

Chapter 110: The Girls' Return

...DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE NECESSARY TO ACCEPT YOUR FATE?

HOPE.

SINCE THE AGE OF GODS, HOPE IS ALL THAT REMAINS WHEN CALAMITY STRIKES.

...SAHASHI-SAN...

THE COURAGE TO ACCEPT .....

LOST BONDS... RETRIEVING THEM...

LOST.....

BADUM
BADUM
BADUM

I... I DON'T...

...HAVE ANY...

... COURAGE.

WHEN UZUME-SAN LAY THERE UNCONSCIOUS...

WHEN MBI TOOK HER AWAY...

...I WAS SO SCARED, I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.

THINKING THAT... EVERYONE MIGHT...

RUMBLE

...SOMEDAY...

EVERY-ONE...

"I MIGHT LOSE EVERYONE, JUST LIKE THAT."
THAT'S ALL I COULD THINK.

I'M SO SCARED ...

JUST THINKING OF LOSING EVERY-ONE...
...SCARES ME SO MUCH.

MINATO-KUN...

...BUT BE REMINDED OF TAKEHITO-SAN.....
...I JUST CAN'T HELP...
YOUR HONESTY... YOUR STRAIGHT-FORWARD AFFECTION TOWARD YOUR SEKIREI...
SA-HASHI-SAN.

...N!
...TO-SAAAN!

MINATO-SAAAN!

THUD

BWUH!

UNH .....

OOOH, MINATO-SAN! MINATO-SAAAN!

I'M REALLY NOT GOOD AT LANDINGS...

S—

SORRY ABOUT THAT!

ARE YOU OKAY?

...MUSUBI-CHAN.

KU-CHAN!
BIG BROTHER! ♡
GAHHH!!
POP
WHEEZE
I UNDERSTAND THAT WE WERE PURSUED BY THE EAST'S LACKEYS, BUT DID WE REALLY NEED TO USE THE SEWERS...?
WE MANAGED TO SNEAK IN THE SHADOWS AND RETURN HOME WITHOUT A BATTLE...!
KU-FU-FU...IT WAS A BRILLIANT SCHEME PLAYING ON THE ACCEPTED PREJUDICE THAT SEKIREI PRIMARILY UTILIZE THE SKIES FOR TRAVEL!

TSUKI-UMI!

MATSU-SAN!

YOU'VE ALL...

...COME HOME...

...SAFELY...

NO SIGNAL!

WHAT HAP-PENED HERE, MINA-TAN?

WE WERE UNDERGROUND, SO I COULDN'T GET A READING ON THE SITUATION UP HERE...!

AH!! DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE BEEN INJURED!?

MINATO, WHOSE BLOOD IS THAT?

WEEP

WH-WHAT IS IT, MINATO?

WHERE DOES IT HURT!?

MINATO-SAN?

HUG
MINA—
!
MI—
MINATO-SAN??
ST—
STOP THIS AT ONCE!
I'VE JUST EMERGED FROM THE SEWERS. I-I'M SURE I SMELL FOUL.
MINA—
R-RELEASE ME.

SQUEEZE
ぎゅっ……

...MINATO .....?

SHE WAS DONE IN BY THE EAST'S SEKIREI...

...SORRY... IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

!!

UZUME...WAS TERMINATED.

...I'M SORRY...

...I COULDN'T PROTECT UZUME...OUR FRIEND.

YOU GUYS WERE OUT THERE TRYING SO HARD, BUT...

IS SHE?

IS U-CHAN GONE? IS SHE DEAD?

BIG BROTH-ER.

UZUME IS...?

KU-CHAN...

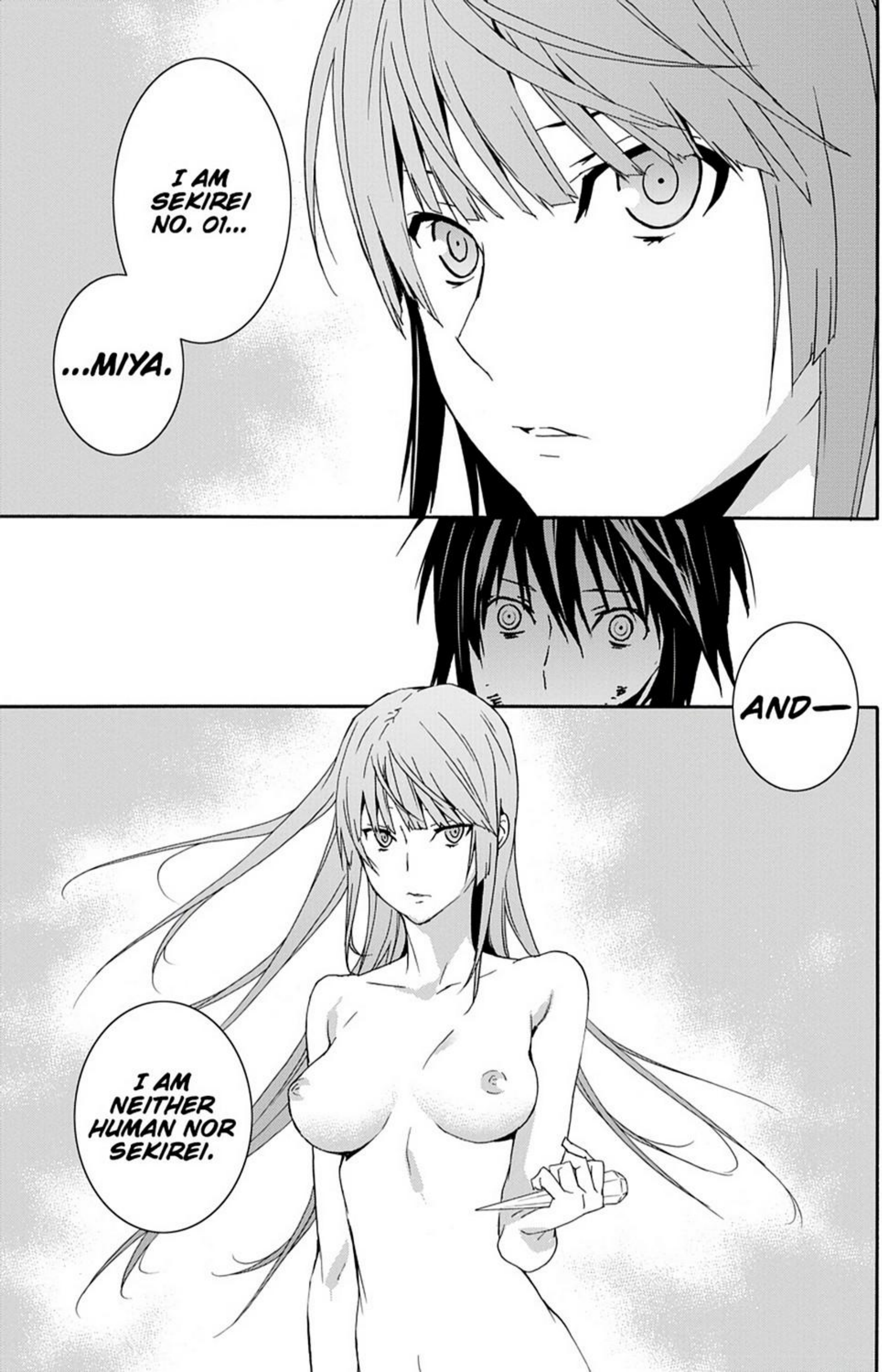
UZUME-SAN ISN'T DEAD.

SHE'S NOT DEAD...

...LAND-LADY?

ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

...HAVE FINALLY STIRRED ME TO ACTION.
IT SEEMS...
...YOU BUNCH...
...I CAN'T HELP BUT WANT TO REACH OUT AND LEND A HAND.
BUT SEEING HOW PURELY YOU ALL CARE FOR EACH OTHER...
WHEN TAKEHITO-SAN PASSED...
...I INTENDED TO RETIRE FOR GOOD...
LAND-LADY-SAMA ...?


I AM SEKIREI NO. 01...
...MIYA.
AND—
I AM NEITHER HUMAN NOR SEKIREI.

I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING.

THE BLOOD-STAINED TRUTH...

...ABOUT SEKIREI AND ASHIKABI.

Chapter 111: White Wings' Pledge

SEKIREI .....?

LAND-LADY...

THIS ISN'T A STORY TO BE TOLD STANDING OUTSIDE.

...YOU ALL NEED A BATH AND A MEAL! ♡

...BUT...

...BEFORE THAT... EVERY-ONE...

...HUH?

...IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG ONE.....

BECAUSE I SUSPECT...

...SEKIREI...

...NO... 01...

D-DO WE REALLY SMELL THAT BADLY?

POINT

TSUKIUMI-SAN! MATSU!

TREATING US LIKE A COUPLE OF DIRTY RATS...!

YOU TWO WILL ENTER THROUGH THE BACK DOOR AND PROCEED STRAIGHT TO THE BATH!

TWITCH

...OH.

RIGHT.

...MINATO-SAN.
AH-HA-HA-HA!
KYAAH!

I'M SURE WE'LL SEE UZUME-SAN AGAIN, SOMEDAY.

...UZUME-SAN AND...HER ASHIKABI...

AND ON THAT DAY...

...AND ALL OF US...

...HERE AT IZUMO INN...

...WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!

SQUEEZE
...YEAH.
BUT... NOW...
BACK THEN...
THE WEIGHT OF THAT... THE PAIN... I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND IT AT ALL.
...THE TRUE MEANING OF WHAT MUSUBI-CHAN SAID...ABOUT "SURVIVING THE BATTLE"...
I'VE GOT TO GET STRONGER.
FOR ALL OF THEM, WHO BELIEVE IN ME.
IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEM.
WE'LL SEE UZUME-SAN AGAIN.
FOR SURE—!

HOW MANY WERE TERMINATED TODAY, I WONDER...

HMM.

I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL IT'S JUST US TWO. UNTIL THE BLOODBATH WE'LL HAVE.

MY BLOOD'S REALLY FLOWING.

MU-CHAN...

...HURRY.

MUSUBI ...

...WON'T LOSE!!

SNIFF
SNIFF
CLINK

SORRY... I...

IF ONLY I'D TAKEN DOWN THE EAST'S SEKIREI PROPERLY, THEN UZUME—

KAGARI-SAN!

UZUME-SAN...

SHE WAS HOLDING BACK AFTER ALL.

STICK

ぺた.

YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, BUT...

...THE WOUNDS THEMSELVES WERE THANKFULLY PRETTY SHALLOW.

TH-THANK YOU.

SHOULDN'T NEED STITCHES.

NO...! YOU'RE WRONG.

Wagtail

HUMANS WHO INTERFERE WITH THE BATTLE BETWEEN SEKIREI FOR THEIR OWN SELFISH REASONS.

HUMANS ARE THE ONLY ONES TO BLAME.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.

IT'S NOT THE FAULT OF ANY SEKIREI.

S-SORRY, SORRY! WAH!
JUMP
THAT'S OKAY...
THAT... KINDA HURTS.
SQUEEZE
SAHASHI...
I MEAN...I WAS CERTAIN ALL THE SINGLE NUMBERS WERE AWARE OF THAT...
YOU KNEW THAT LANDLADY-DONO WAS NO. 01—!?
WHA—?

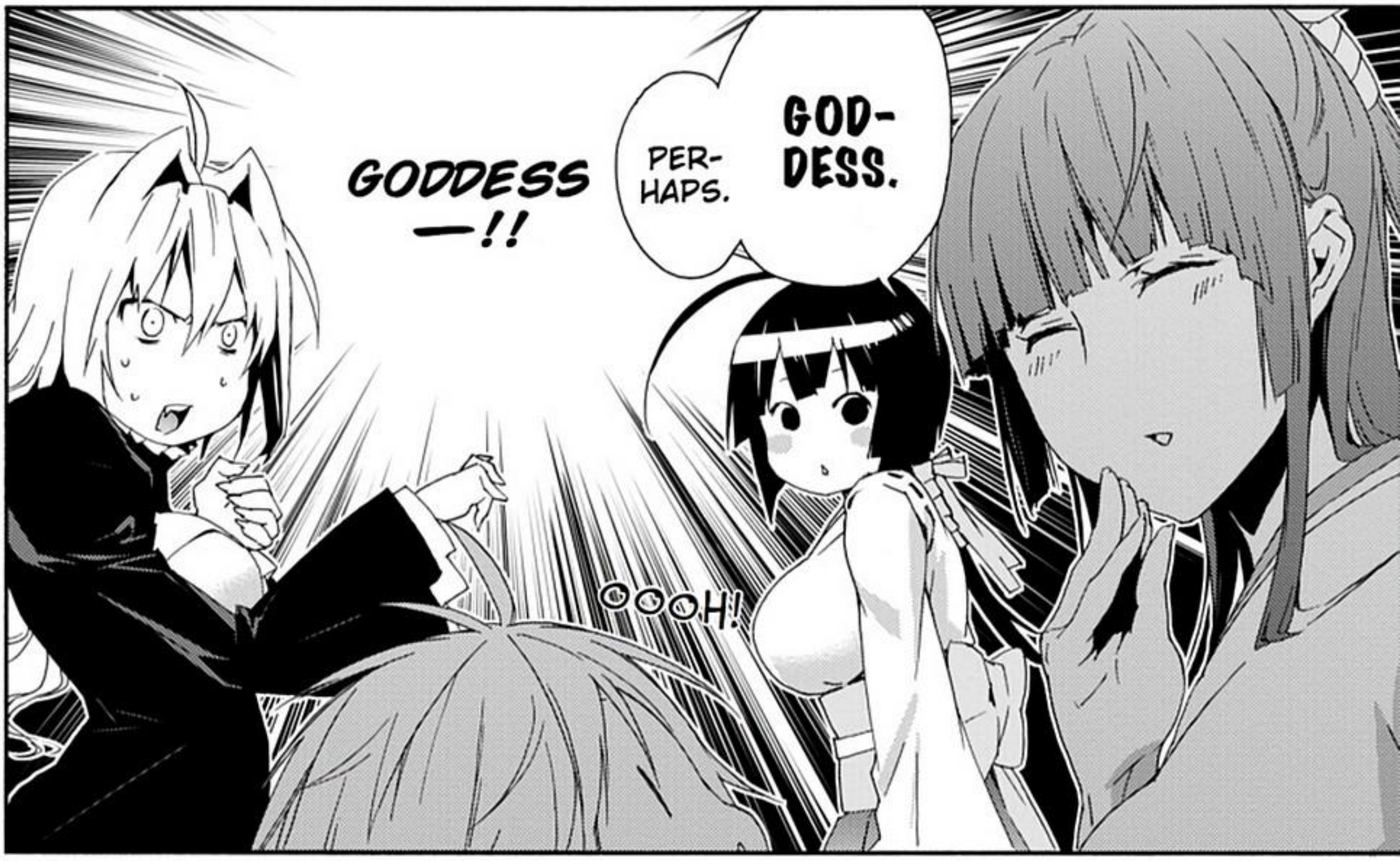
NOW THEN, EVERYONE...

THE FOOD IS READY.

HELP ME SERVE IT, PLEASE.

I SUP-POSE SO...
BUT RATHER THAN "QUEEN," I WOULD SAY—

BECAUSE, BECAUSE, TAKAMI-CHAN TOLD ME...
...THAT NO. 01 IS THE QUEEN OF ALL SEKIREI.
NOW, WHY WOULD YOU THINK THAT?


GODDESS —!!
PER-HAPS.
GOD-DESS.
OOOH!

AS I SAID...
...I AM NEITHER HUMAN NOR SEKIREI.

...OF MEMORIES ONLY I POSSESS...
...LINKING US TO A DISTANT PAST...
LET ME TELL YOU...
...OF THE AGE OF GODS, UNKNOWN TO ALL BUT ME.

THE ORIGIN STORY...
...OF BOTH ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI—!

BEFORE WE BEGIN...

...LET ME SAY ONE THING.

TWITCH ビク

WH-WHAT?

KAGARI-SAN.

COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU DID HAND IT OVER TO THE LAND-LADY.....

POINT

NO, I... IT'S JUST, I KNEW IT'D BE SAFEST WITH YOU, MIYA. ... RIGHT?

YOU SIMPLY MUST STOP USING ME AS YOUR JINKI SAFE-KEEPER!

Chapter 112: The Original Ashikabi

WE HAVE TWO OF THEM HERE, BUT...
...ONE MUST POSSESS ALL EIGHT TO USE THEM.
CLUNK
THE JINKI.
SAHASHI-SAN, ANY IDEAS?
AS FOR WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALL EIGHT ARE BROUGHT TOGETHER ...
NO...
MBI DIDN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING ABOUT THEM...
AN ASHIKABI IN POSSESSION OF ALL EIGHT JINKI...
...CAN FORCE ALL OTHER SEKIREI TO CEASE FUNCTIONING.
WHEN THE EIGHT ARE LINKED TOGETHER, A CONTRACT-BEARING ASHIKABI CAN CAUSE A CERTAIN PHENOMENON TO OCCUR.
JINKI ARE MADE OF A MATERIAL THAT REACTS WITH SEKIREI "CORES."
THAT IS TO SAY...
OOH?

AWW. SHE'S GONE AND SAID IT...

R-RIGHT.
MATSU-SAN. COULD YOU ELABORATE?

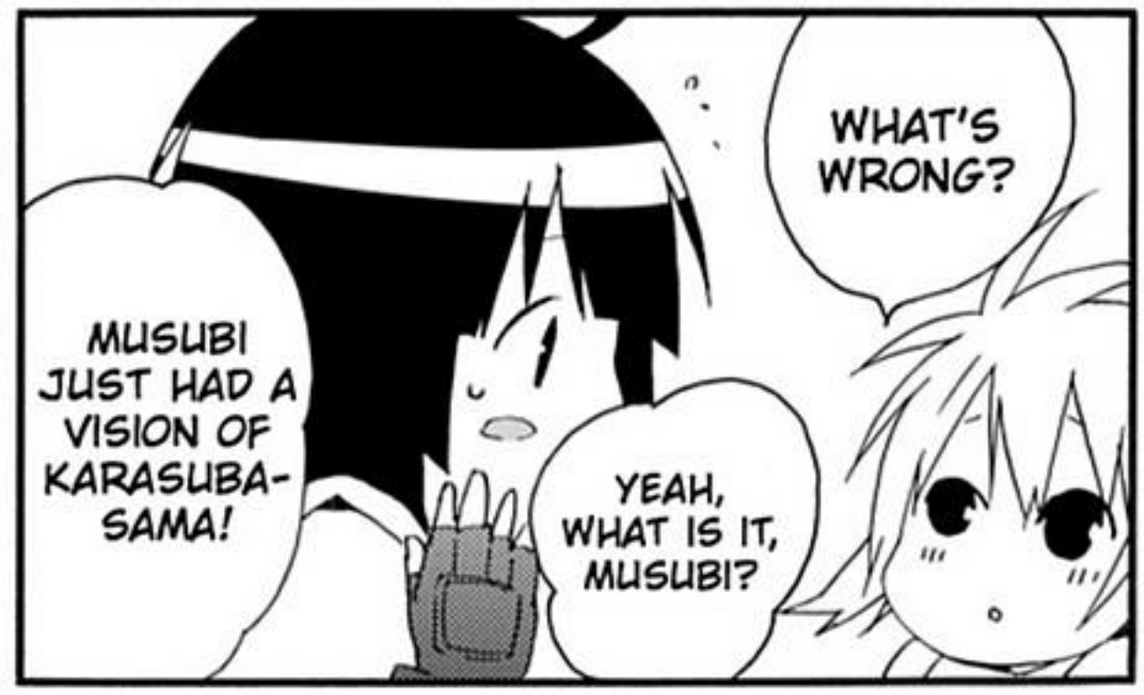
YOU ALL KNOW SEKIREI HAVE "SEKIREI CORES" WITHIN THEM.
THEY'RE THE SOURCE OF OUR POWER.

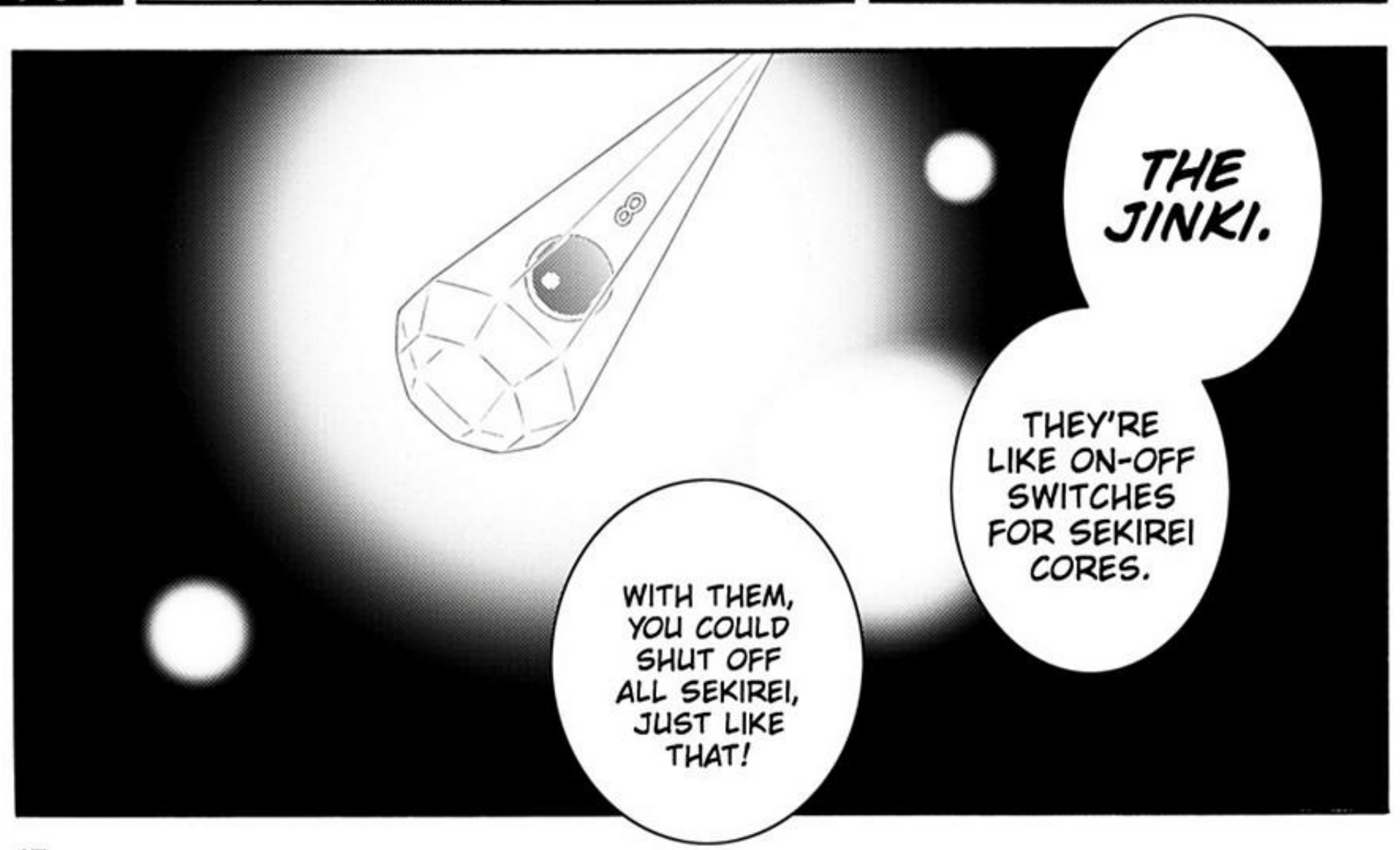
FORCE THEM...
...TO CEASE ...

THEY'RE OUR VERY LIVES, ESSENTIALLY.

SO...
A SEKIREI WHO'S LOST HIS OR HER CORE WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION.
IT'S NO GOOD, YUME.
THIS ONE'S CORE IS TOTALLY DESTROYED.

THIS ONE'S NO USE TO US ANYMORE!





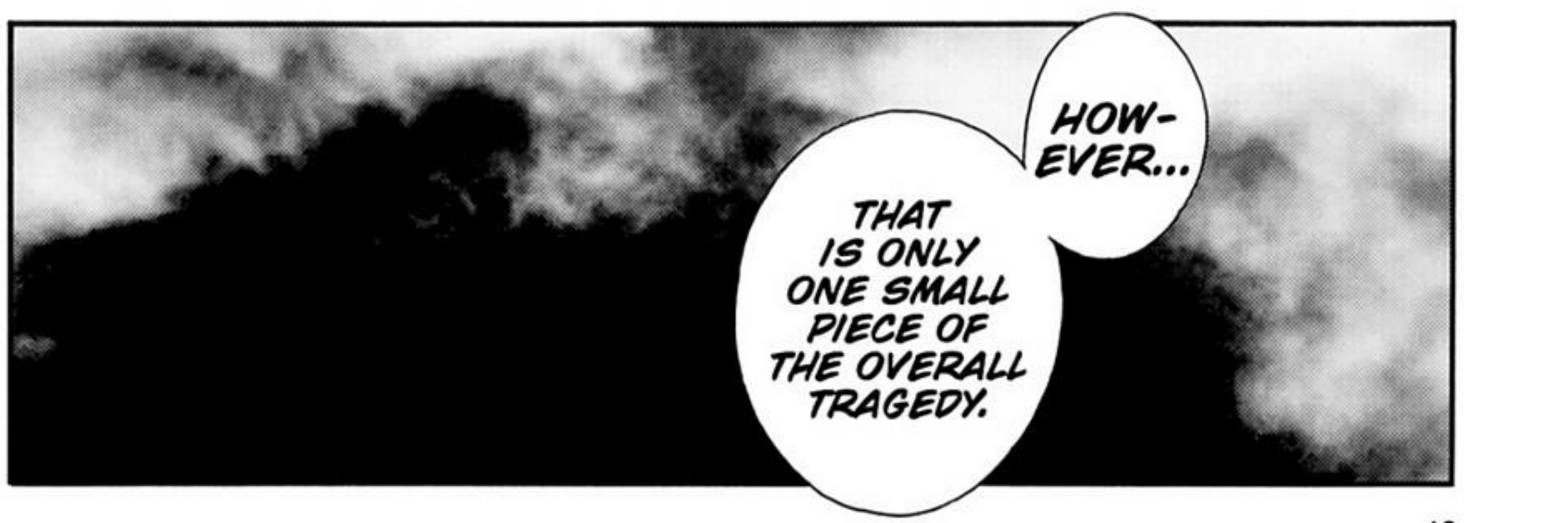
...AND CALL THEM PRIZES...?
...GIVE OUT... THOSE SCARY THINGS...
WHY WOULD THE CEO...

OUR SEKIREI CORES ...
...CAN BE SHUT OFF...SO EASILY ...!?

BUT AS IT IS...
...THERE ARE SOME ASHIKABI OUT THERE...
...WHO'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET THEM!

CALLING THEM "PRIZES ♡" IS JUST THE CEO'S IDEA OF A JOKE...
THAT'S WHAT I SUSPECT.
WELL, I'M NOT LAUGH-ING!
NO. OF COURSE NOT...

AND IT'S NOT EXACTLY A LIE. THEY ARE "PRIZES ♡" OF A SORT.


HOW-EVER...
THAT IS ONLY ONE SMALL PIECE OF THE OVERALL TRAGEDY.

THE REAL PROB-LEM...

...WILL SOON BECOME CLEAR...

IT'S TIME FOR A TALE OF DAYS LONG PAST.

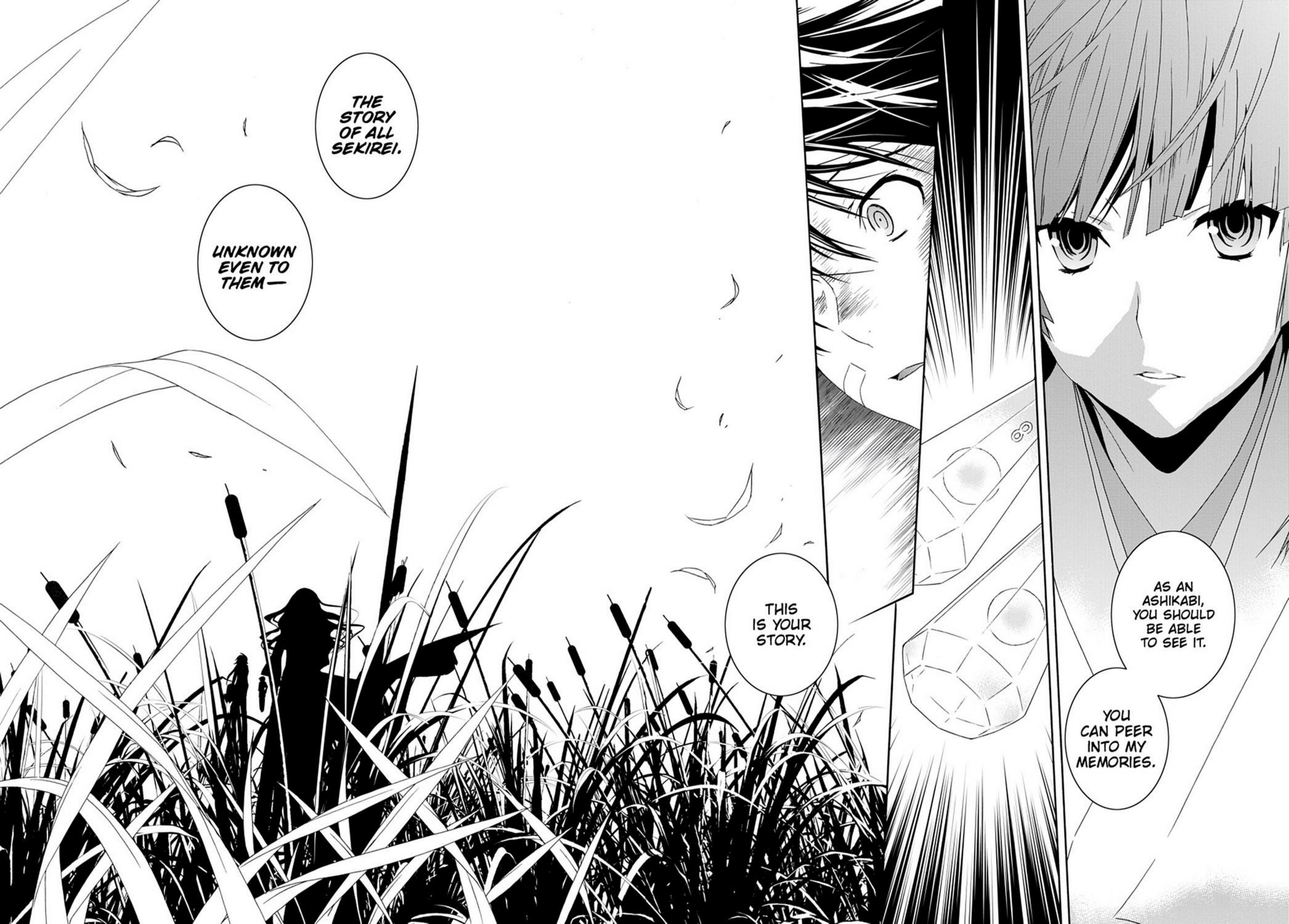
BUT BEFORE WE GET TO THAT...

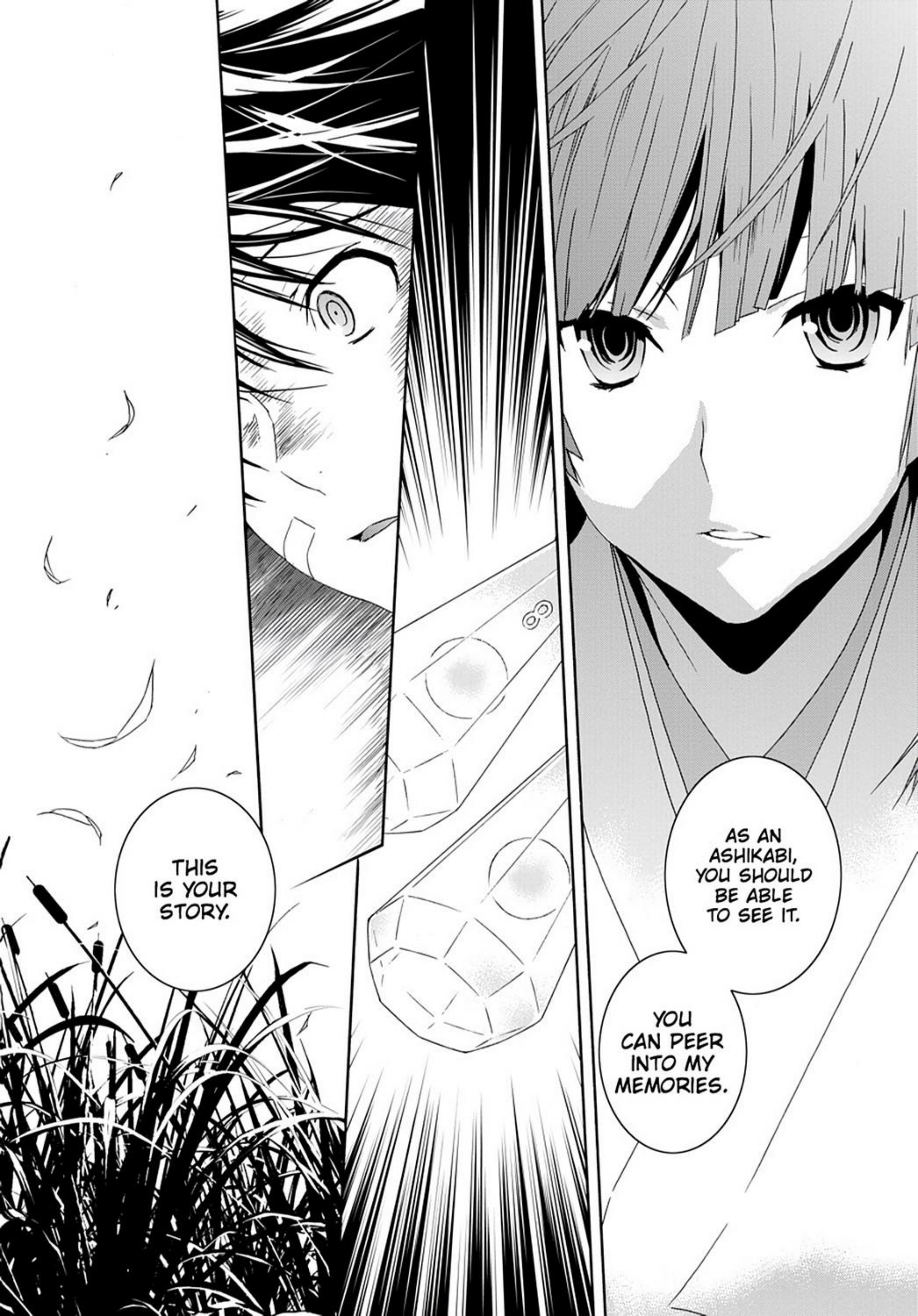
SAHA-SHI-SAN.

Y-YES?

THE ORIGIN STORY...

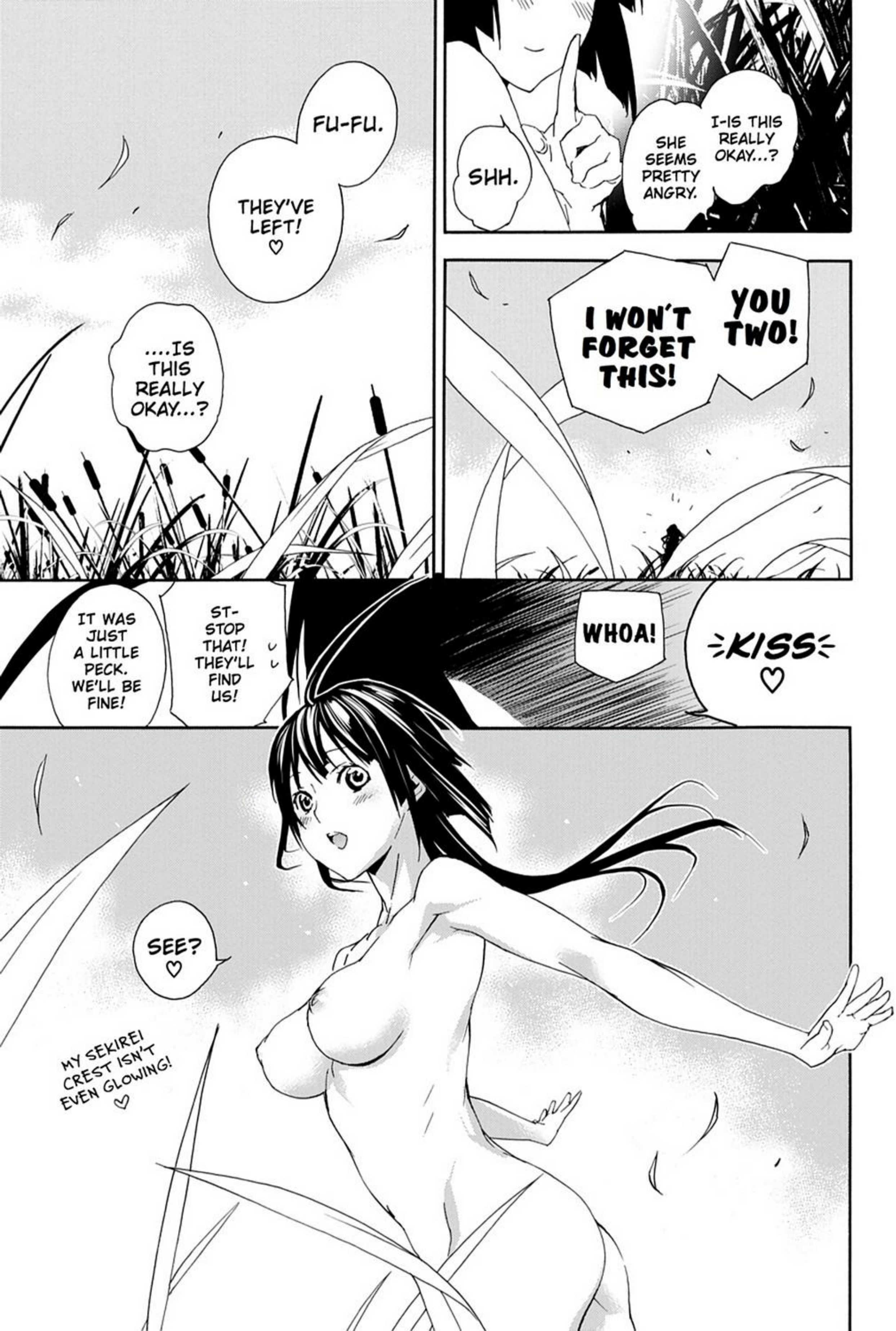
...OF SEKIREI AND ASHIKABI.


THE STORY OF ALL SEKIREI.
UNKNOWN EVEN TO THEM—
THIS IS YOUR STORY.
AS AN ASHIKABI, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT.
YOU CAN PEER INTO MY MEMORIES.


THIS IS YOUR STORY.
AS AN ASHIKABI, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT.
YOU CAN PEER INTO MY MEMORIES.

THE STORY OF ALL SEKIREI.
UNKNOWN EVEN TO THEM—

FOUND THEM!?
NO. NOT OVER HERE.
THEY'RE TOO GOOD AT HIDE-AND-SEEK!
CAN'T FIIIND THEM!
GEEZ...
NO FAAAIR. BIG SIS WANTS SOME LOVING TOOOO.
SINCE WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER REACTION LIGHT YET, THAT MEANS THEY HAVEN'T JOINED...
KU-FU-KU-FU. I WONDER HOW LONG THEY CAN HOLD OUT.
GETTING THE JUMP ON ME...!!
GETTING THE JUMP ON ME...
RUSTLE
GETTING THE JUMP ON MEEE!
WHOA, CALM DOWN.


SHH.
SHE SEEMS PRETTY ANGRY.
I-IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
I WON'T FORGET THIS!
YOU TWO!
FU-FU.
THEY'VE LEFT! ♡
....IS THIS REALLY OKAY...?
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE PECK. WE'LL BE FINE!
ST-STOP THAT! THEY'LL FIND US!
WHOA!
KISS ♡
SEE? ♡
MY SEKIREI CREST ISN'T EVEN GLOWING! ♡

GIGGLE
くすくす♡

I GUESS...

...I REALLY DID GET THE JUMP ON HER. ♡

WE'RE FINE FOR TODAY!

I HAVEN'T CAUGHT THEIR *SCENT* YET.

WE HAVE TO GO BACK SOON.

...NO TELLING WHEN *THEY'LL* ATTACK...

EVERY-ONE'S GONE AND LEFT US.

BE-SIDES ...

GLOMP
ぎゅーっ

WHOA!

MMM!

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!

WH-WHOA!

HOLD ON... WHERE ARE YOUR CLOTHES!?

MMM...

I WILL PROTECT YOU.
FOREVER AND EVER...
...I WILL PROTECT YOU...
...MY ASHIKABI.

I WILL PROTECT YOU.
FOREVER AND EVER...
...I WILL PROTECT YOU...

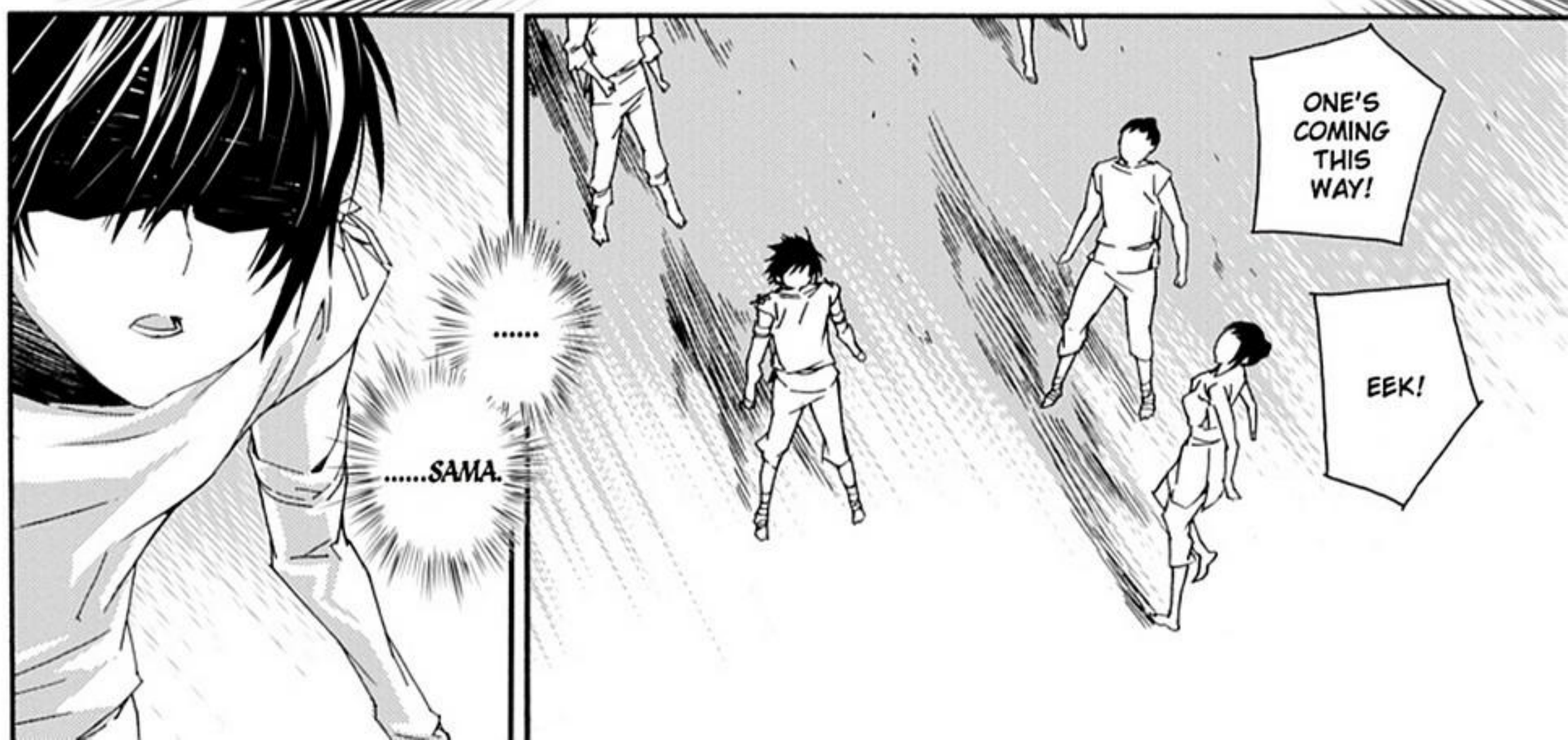
...MY ASHIKABI.

...I SEE IT.
DARK CLOUDS.
FLOWING BLOOD.
THE TEARS OF MY SISTERS ...

Chapter 113: Blood of Yore

THAT DAY...

EIGHT STARS FELL FROM THE SKY.



ASHIKABI-SAMA.

RUMBLE
ゴォォ...

BOOM

...

...SAMA.

...

THAT VOICE... IT'S CALLING ME...?

... WHAT ...?

WHAT IS THAT...?

SOMEONE'S CALLING ME—!

MY HEART'S POUNDING.

HEY, IT'S DANGER-OUS!

...FOUND YOU.

FOUND YOU!

MY ASHIKABI.

OUR DESTINED PARTNER.

WE'RE...
...SEKIREI!
...
SEKI...
...REI...

SO WE REALLY DO HAVE AN ASHIKABI...

AMAZING —!

YAAAY, BIG BROTHER!

NO, WAIT. LET'S GET A BETTER LOOK AT HIM...

OOH, I THINK I LIKE HIM. ♡

LOOK AT HIM! LOOK AT HIS DUMB-FOUNDED FACE!

THIS ASHIKABI IS A MERE APE.

.....

わきわきわ

WRIGGLE

WRIGGLE

THOSE ONE IN TEN THOUSAND ODDS ARE EVEN MORE INCREDIBLE, GIVEN THE CURRENT ERA.

KU-FU-KU-FU-FU-FU. EXPERIMENT! I MUST RUN AN EXPERI-MENT...

PRELIMINARY CALCULATIONS STATED THE ODDS OF ONE OF THE SPECIES ON THIS PLANET MANIFESTING ASHIKABI ABILITIES WERE ONLY ONE IN TEN THOUSAND...

MY ARK BURNED, AND THE REGALIA CONTAINED WITHIN WERE LOST IN THE FLAMES.

EACH CONTAIN 107 "SEKIREI" AND ONE "PILLAR."

ONLY THESE EIGHT AND I SURVIVED...

EIGHT ARKS HAVE FALLEN TO THE EARTH.

THAT IS A FATE THAT HUMANS— BEING WHAT THEY ARE— CANNOT AVOID.....

THERE IS NO DOUBT THIS WILL TRIGGER CONFLICT.

TO BOND WITH A SEKIREI IS TO ACQUIRE THE POWER OF THE GODS.

THEIR POWERS OF YORE WILL BOND THEM TO THE SEKIREI SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE LANDS...

LOW THOUGH THE ODDS MAY BE, OTHER ASHIKABI MAY YET APPEAR.

THERE ARE EIGHT IN TOTAL.

BRINGING ALL TOGETHER GRANTS THE POWER TO MOVE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

ALSO...

...EACH PILLAR POS-SESSES ONE OF THESE.

THE "KUSHIMI-TAMA."

...AND THIS "SOUL" ARE YOURS TO TAKE...

...THEN MY SEKIREI ...

IF YOU POSSESS THE DETERMI-NATION TO ACCEPT YOUR FATE...

SO...

I HOLD OURS IN MY HANDS— THE LAST BIT OF OUR REGALIA.

THE KUSHIMITAMA RULE OVER THE SOULS OF ALL SEKIREI.

...MY YOUNG "ASHIKABI."

UMM... UHH...

UMM...

...

...YOU PUT SOME CLOTHES ON? PLEASE...!

HOW ABOUT, FIRST...

...UH.

ON THAT DAY...

AND I FOUND MYSELF WITH EIGHT WIVES.

...GLOWING ARKS FELL FROM THE SKY.

...SAN.

SAHASHI-SAN.

WH-WH-WH-WH-WH-WHY'M I NAKED ...?

HUH...? WH-WHERE ARE WE...!?

IN THE REALM OF YOUR SUBCON-SCIOUS.

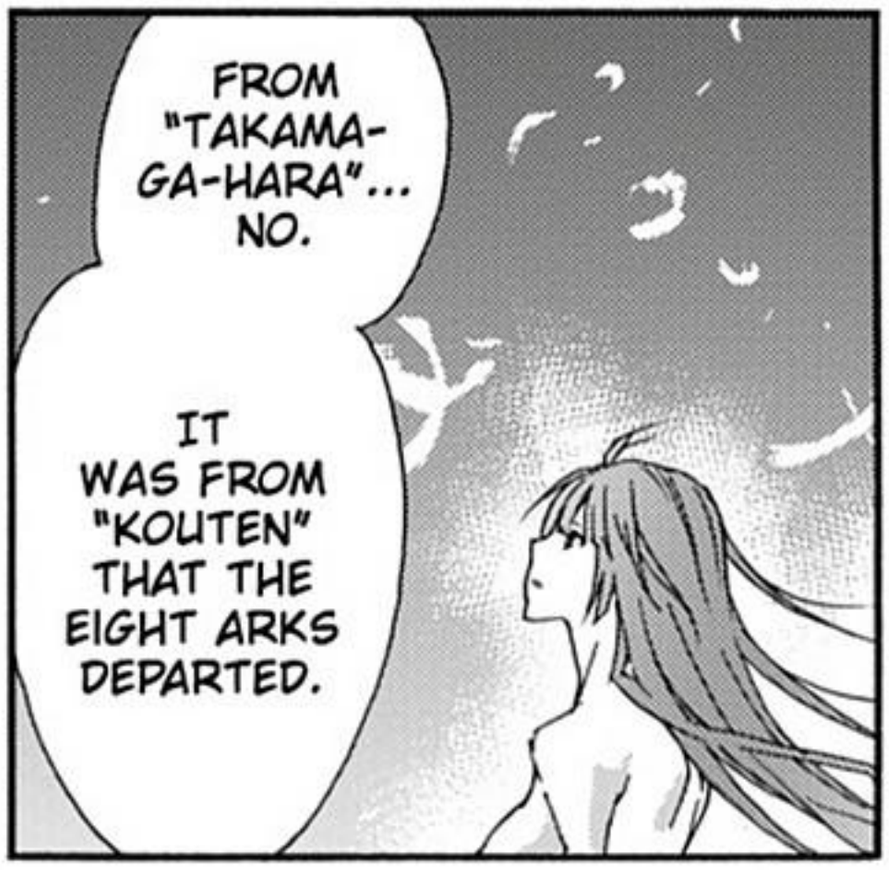
YOU SAW THEM, DIDN'T YOU? THOSE OLDEST OF MEMORIES.

MEMORIES OF THE ORIGINAL ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI ARE CARVED INTO YOUR DNA.

WHOA!

AND 108... THAT'S THE NUMBER OF SEKIREI...
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT !?
O-OH, BUT WAIT! THOSE GIRLS LOOKED LIKE ALL OF YOU...

THE ORIGINAL ASHIKABI...


FROM "TAKAMA-GA-HARA"... NO.
IT WAS FROM "KOUTEN" THAT THE EIGHT ARKS DEPARTED.

BUT *THIS ME* WAS STILL ASLEEP IN THAT ERA.
THE ONE YOU SAW WAS ONE OF THOSE EIGHT.
THE EIGHT PILLARS WERE *ME*.
EACH CONTAINED 107 SEKIREI AND ONE PILLAR.

...WITH MY 107.
IN A LONG, LONG SLEEP.
I WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF A DEEP SEA...

THEY WERE BOTH HUMANS WITH THE APTITUDE TO BECOME ASHIKABI.

THAT'S WHY THE DOORS OF MY ARK RESPONDED TO THEM AND OPENED.

YOU SEE...

...UNLIKE THE OTHERS, MY ARK MISTAKENLY FELL INTO THE OCEAN. ♡

TIME PASSED.

THE VESSEL EVENTUALLY ROSE UP WITH AN ISLAND AND WAS DISCOVERED BY A CERTAIN PAIR...

...SO THAT WAS—

KAMIKURA ISLAND...

THE SEKIREI WITHIN THE EIGHT ARKS ALL HAD DIFFERENT GROWTH RATES, BUT THEY ALL RESEMBLE EACH OTHER.

IN YOUR CASE, SAHASHI-SAN, THE MEMORIES YOU VIEWED WERE SEEN THROUGH A "FILTER" OF YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES.

I BELIEVE THAT'S WHY ***THOSE GIRLS*** FROM THE MEMORIES APPEARED TO YOU AS SPITTING IMAGES OF MUSUBI-SAN AND THE OTHERS.

AS FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO ***US*** NEXT...

YOU'RE ALREADY QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE STORY.

AND THAT LAST ONE ACTUALLY WAS ME.
ONE OF THE EIGHT PILLARS, LOST LONG AGO.
I WILL NOW TELL YOU...
...OF ALL THAT MY EYES WERE WITNESS TO...

HELLO!
WE'RE BAAACK! ♡

YOU MAY AS WELL HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT OUR ASHIKABI LIVES HERE!!

AND WHAT IF THE ENEMY CAUGHT SIGHT OF YOUR REACTION LIGHT!!?

AWWW, I'M SORRYYY...!

EH-HEH-HEH. ♡ I WAS OUT PLAYING WITH OUR ASHIKABI-SAMA.

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

THAT'S WHY I'M LATE GETTING B—

BONK

ACK! ☆

YOU!

GETTING THE JUMP ON ME IN SECRET ONCE AGAIN.

DOING WHO-KNOWS-WHAT WITH OUR ASHIKABI —!!

YOU HIT ME WITH A BRONZE MIRROR...

MY, MY, BUT THE BUSINESS OF LOVE IS A PRECIOUS THING! ♡

KU-KU-KU-KU. EXPERIMENT! ♡ EXPERIMENT! ♡♡

CUT IT OUT. I DON'T WANNA HEAR ABOUT...

...ALL THE "WHO-KNOWS-WHAT"!

HEY, HEEEY, WHERE'S BIG BROTHER? ♡

GAH!

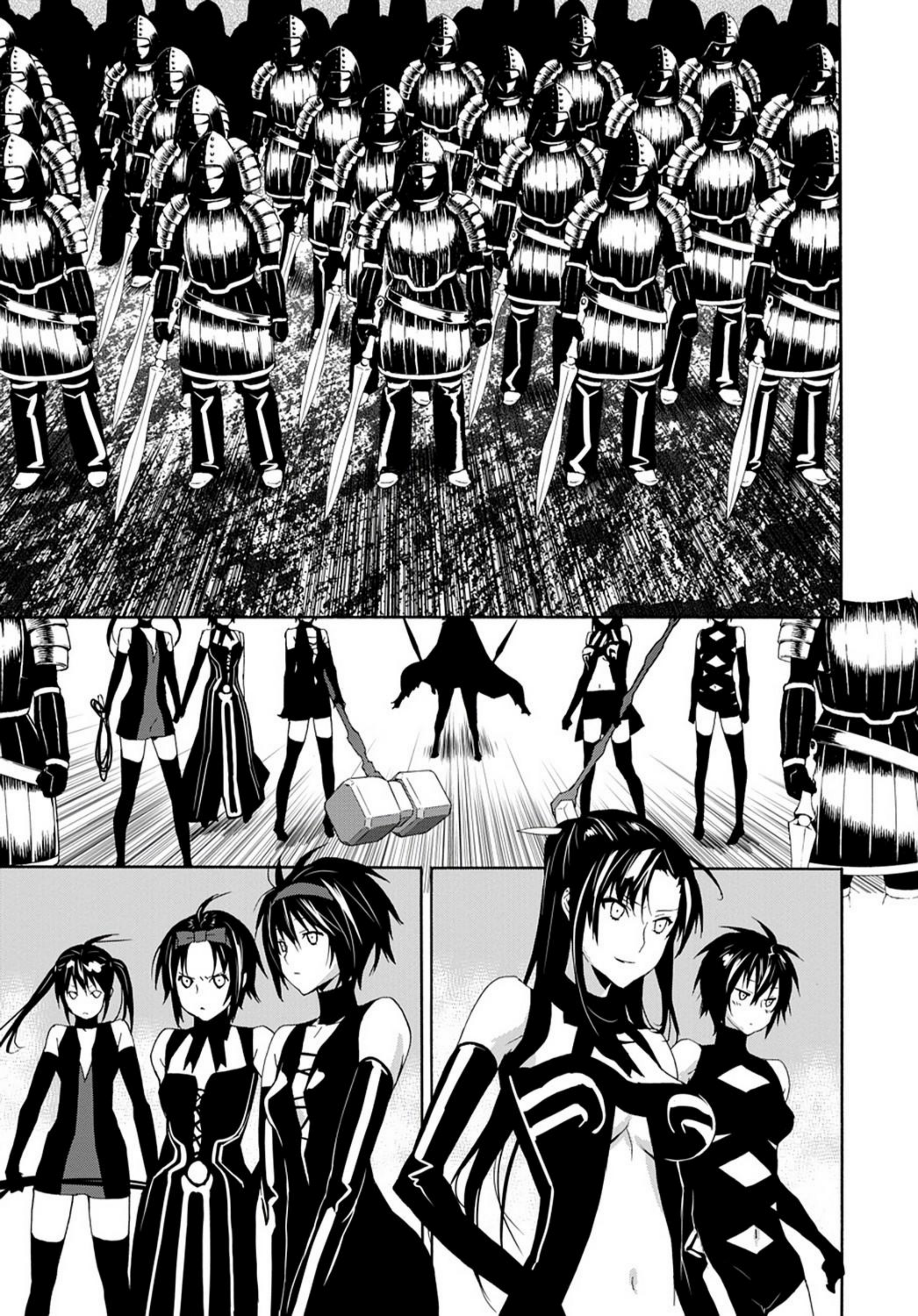
YOU MEAN HE'S RUN AWAY !!?

HUH? HE WAS WITH ME UNTIL A MOMENT AGO.

BUT WHEN THE FIGHTING STARTS, IT'LL ALL HAPPEN IN A FLASH.
THE VILLAGE WILL BURN, THE FIELDS WILL BE RAVAGED, AND PEOPLE WILL DIE.
NO MOVEMENT FROM THE ENEMY. YET.
WHAT'S THE SITU-ATION?
YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY WHO CAN PROTECT US FROM ALL THAT!
MY DEAR ASHIKABI-CHAN!

Chapter 114: Kushimitama's Whereabouts

—HERE THEY COME!



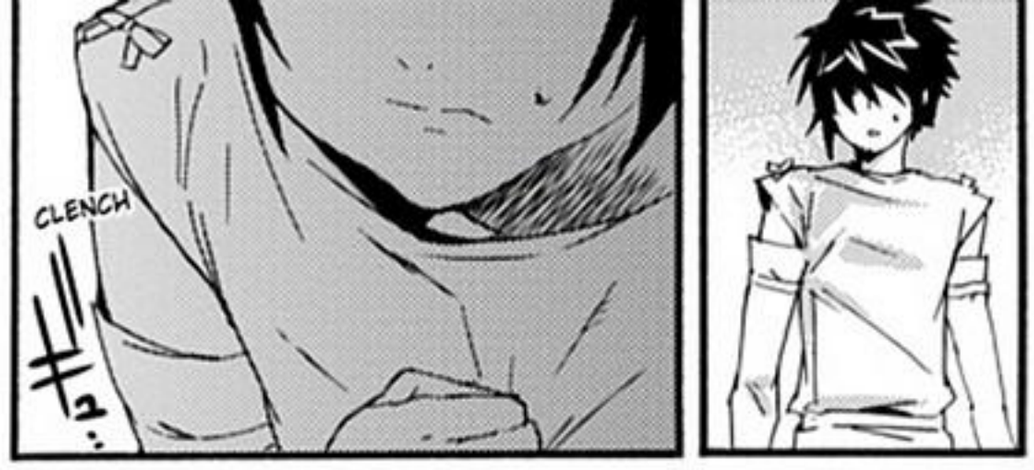
PLEASE, EVERYONE...

...JUST COME BACK SAFELY...!

WE'LL BE FINE!

BECAUSE WE...

...WON'T LOSE!


CLENCH

THIS WILL BE DANGER-OUS.

SO PLEASE, MOVE OUT OF...

...THE WAY!!

GROW!

HEH HEH.
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE HERE EITHER.
RIGHT?
STAY ON GUARD, EVERYONE.

THE REAL BATTLE...

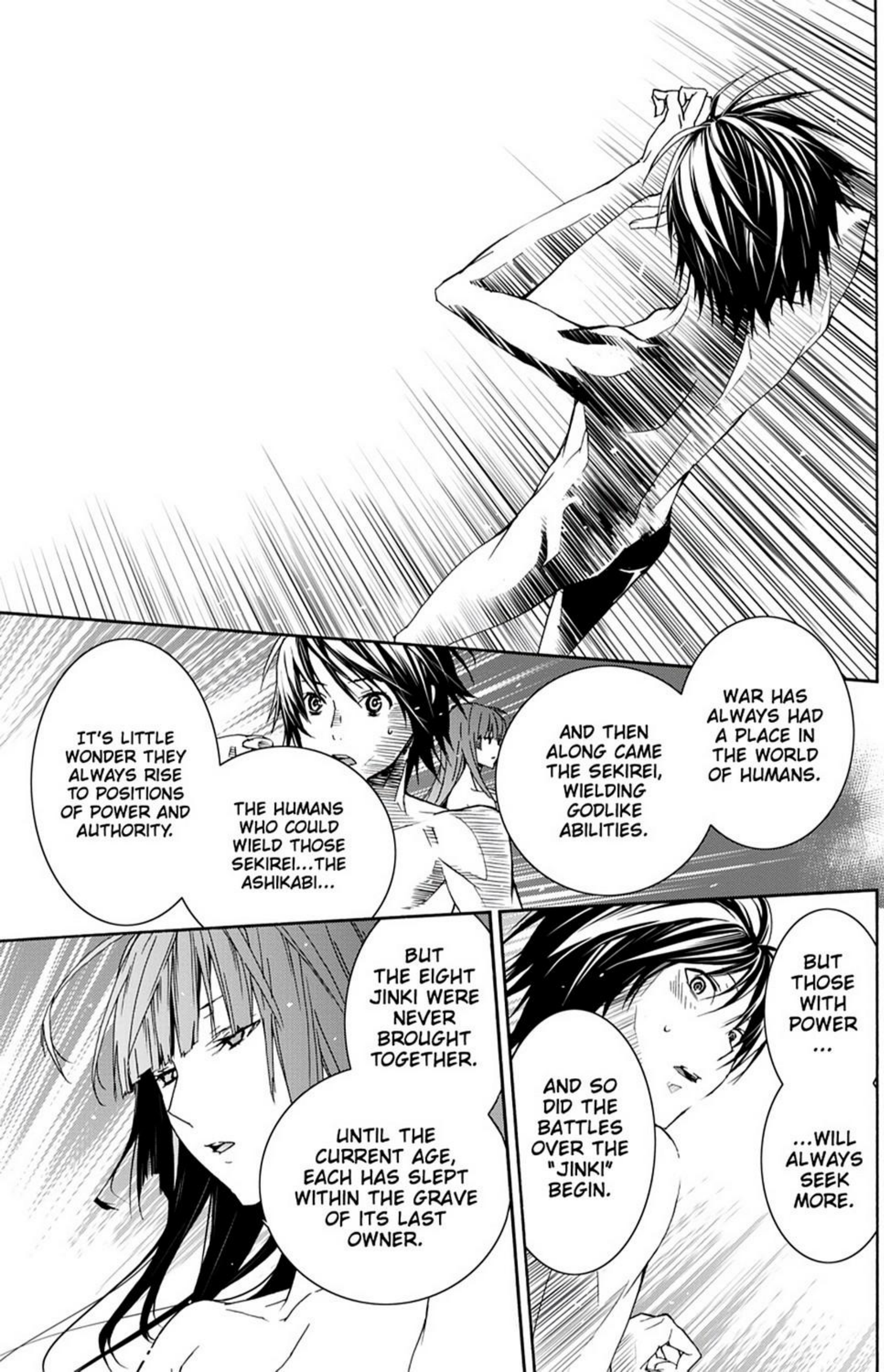
...STARTS NOW.

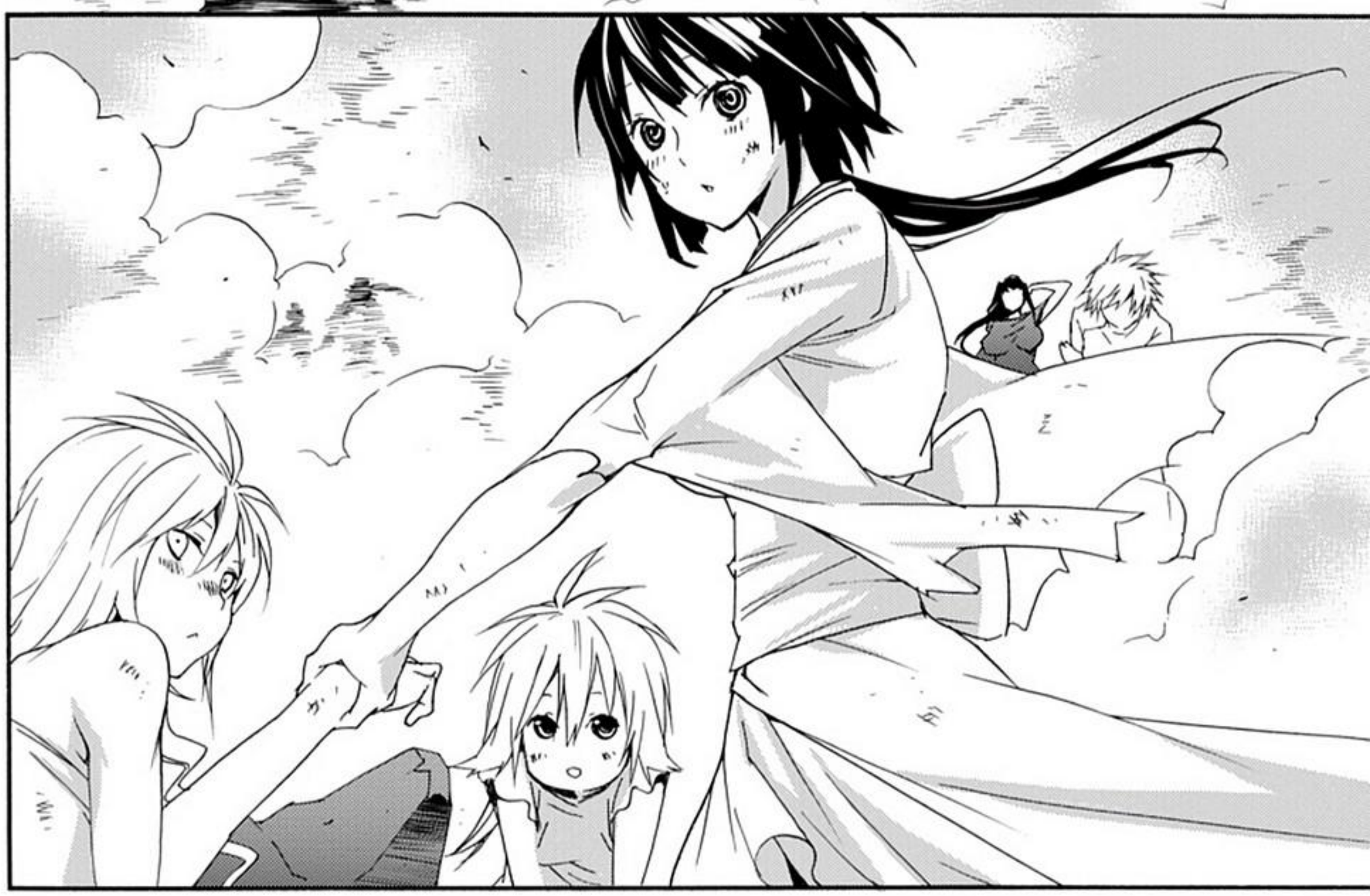
FOOM

...!!

TCH...

HERE I COME!
CLASH


IT'S LITTLE WONDER THEY ALWAYS RISE TO POSITIONS OF POWER AND AUTHORITY.
THE HUMANS WHO COULD WIELD THOSE SEKIREI...THE ASHIKABI...
AND THEN ALONG CAME THE SEKIREI, WIELDING GODLIKE ABILITIES.
WAR HAS ALWAYS HAD A PLACE IN THE WORLD OF HUMANS.
BUT THE EIGHT JINKI WERE NEVER BROUGHT TOGETHER.
UNTIL THE CURRENT AGE, EACH HAS SLEPT WITHIN THE GRAVE OF ITS LAST OWNER.
AND SO DID THE BATTLES OVER THE "JINKI" BEGIN.
BUT THOSE WITH POWER ...
...WILL ALWAYS SEEK MORE.



...AS WELL AS THEIR ASHIKABI...
THE SEKIREI WHO SURVIVED THE BATTLES...
SO THE ASHIKABI BLOODLINES HAVE PERSISTED TO THIS DAY.
...BORE CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN.
THEY LEFT BEHIND DESCEN-DANTS.
YES, THAT'S WHAT I SAID.
DESCEN-DANTS!?
DESCEN-DANTS...
ASHIKABI ...
SEKIREI ...
...MAY BE DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THEIR DISTANT ANCESTORS.
NOT EVERY DESCENDANT EXHIBITS THE APTITUDE TO BE AN ASHIKABI, OF COURSE...
...BUT THE FACT THAT SO MANY ASHIKABI TODAY COME FROM POWERFUL FAMILIES...

...DESCEND FROM SEKIREI .....?

...SO I...

NOW LET'S TALK ABOUT THE JINKI.

.....

LET THE THIRD PHASE BEGIN!

...WHO REVIVED THEM IN MODERN TIMES.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, IT WAS MBI...

AND IT WAS I WHO GAVE THEM THE NECESSARY INFORMATION TO DO SO.

THE PRIZE? THESE "JINKI"!!

THERE'RE REALLY THINGS LIKE THAT!?

WHERE? WHERE?

LET'S EXCAVATE!

WOW! WOW! "JINKI"!?

LET'S INVESTI-GATE!!

ROAR

OF COURSE, I NEVER IMAGINED THEY'D BE USED AS PRIZES IN THIS FOOLISH GAME.

FU FU...

WHAT'S THAT BEHIND YOU, LAND-LADY!!?

L-LAND-LADY!

SHUDDER

...WAIT.

...NO..... BUT...

...!?

HOLD ON A MINUTE ...

IF TODAY'S ASHIKABI ARE DESCENDED FROM SEKIREI...

NO...EVEN IF THEY'RE NOT ASHIKABI...

THEN...FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID...THE HUMANS ALIVE NOW WHO'VE INHERITED THE GENES OF THOSE ANCIENT SEKIREI ARE...

"KUSHI-MITAMA"...

THE JINKI RESPOND TO SEKIREI CORES.

AND A SEKIREI'S CORE IS THE SOURCE OF THEIR POWER.

IT'S NOT A PHYSICAL OBJECT. THINK OF IT AS LIFE FORCE.

IT MAY INHABIT DIFFERENT BEINGS, BUT *IT* NEVER TRULY VANISHES.

THOSE GIRLS... THEY STILL EXIST WITHIN YOU.

...THOSE SOULS...

IT EXISTS WITHIN THE GENES OF THOSE LINKED THROUGH TIME.

SO EVEN IF THOSE UNRULY ABILITIES ARE LOST...

...THAT'S RIGHT.

SO YOU'VE REALIZED IT.

BEYOND JUST FORCED TERMINATION AND REVIVAL...THEY COULD WORK ON NON-SEKIREI TOO...?

BADUM ドキ

...SO THAT MEANS..... NO...

THE JINKI...

BADUM ドキ

BADUM ドキ

...WOULD ALSO BE VERY WELL WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITY...

MASS GENOCIDE ☆ ON AN UNSPEAKABLE SCALE...

DOES SHE EVEN REALIZE HOW CRAZY THAT IS?

WHOAAA!

Chapter 115: Wings of Determination

SHE GOT THE JUMP ON HER COMRADES IN ORDER TO B-BOND WITH THEIR ASHIKABI... HOW SNEAKY OF HER!!

AND WHAT OF THAT SEKIREI WHO RESEMBLED YOU?

IT'S NOTHING TO BE SO EXCITED ABOUT, MUSUBI!!

WOW, THAT'S IMPRESSIVE!

OHHH, PLEASE. LOVING WITH ALL ONE'S HEART IS IMPORTANT IN ANY ERA! ♡

YOU GUYS, SERIOUSLY? CAN'T EVEN BEHAVE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.....?

KU-FU-FU-FU. IT'S LIKE A SOAP OPERA!

!?

MINATO-SAN! ♡

KU-FU-FU-FU. BY THE WAY, MINA-TAN...

LET'S JUST SAY YOU'VE EXCEEDED MY DATA ON YOU... KU-FU-KU-FU-KU-FU.

WHY'RE YOU ALL...?

HOLD ON—

IT'S LIKE I EXPLAINED BEFORE, MINA-TAN!

WH—

AND NO. 00 OVER THERE SERVES AS A MEDIUM TO STRENGTHEN THE BOND.

WE'VE ACTUALLY BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME! ♡

THAT'S WHY THIS PHENOMENON IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW.

ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI ARE BOUND TELEPATHI-CALLY...

...!

WAAAAH!

—!!
STAND
Wagtail
...NO.
?
...A DREAM ...?
...HUH ...?
...A SMALL... VERY SMALL GLIMMER OF HOPE.
...BUT ALSO...
THEY REPRESENT UNFATH-OMABLE DESPAIR.
SUCH ARE THE JINKI.
THEY CAN ALTER AN ASHIKABI'S VERY DESTINY.
THEY HAVE LIFE-AND-DEATH POWER OVER SEKIREI.
EVERY-THING YOU SAW WAS REAL.
IT WAS NO DREAM.

I-I SAW... MINATO'S, UM...!

YOU'VE... FINALLY EXPLAINED EVERYTHING ABOUT THE JINKI TO US...

...MIYA-TAN...

IF THEY NEVER EXISTED, THEN THAT *INCIDENT* WOULDN'T HAVE...

...THEN TAKEHITO-TAN NEVER WOULD'VE...

DON'T SPEAK OF IT.

...DON'T SPEAK OF IT...

...MATSU...

L...

...LAND-LADY...?

...OH, THERE'S ONE MORE THING...

...I'M CURIOUS ABOUT.

THE SEKIREI SAHASHI SAW IN THAT *VISION*...

WHAT WAS THAT POWER?

EVEN WITH JUST A BRIEF GLIMPSE OF BATTLE, I COULD FEEL IT.

THOSE GIRLS WERE STRONG!

ON AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM US.

...THE SHACKLES COULD BE THROWN OFF.

BUT EVEN THOSE LIMITERS... WITH THE JINKI'S HELP...

NOW. SHALL WE BEGIN?

A NEW MYTHOLOGY ...

A TOUCHING WAR EPIC...

THE POWERS OF THE GODS OF OLD...THAT WORLD OF LEGENDS...

...WOULD BE REBORN, HERE IN TEITO...!

WHY'M I YOUR EXAMPLE?

FEROCIOUS SEKIREI WOULD BECOME EVEN MORE FEROCIOUS.

IT'S NOT NO GOOD. IT'S KUNO...!

AND NO-GOOD SEKIREI WOULD— WELL, YOU GET IT.

THEN WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE U-CHAN AGAIN!

YOU SHOULD COLLECT ALL THE JINKI!

HEY, BIG BROTHER.

JINKI...

WORLD...OF LEGENDS...

U-CHAN AND CHIHO-CHAN...

...WILL BE TOGETHER AGAIN!

...BUT...

I KNOW IT SEEMS LIKE A CONTRADICTION, BUT...

IT'S A PARA-DOX.

I'LL PROTECT YOU.

SO PLEASE FIGHT ALONGSIDE M—

I'LL...

I'LL PROTECT YOU ALL.

OF COURSE!
YOU GUYS ARE THE VERY DEFINITION OF "TENSION"...
KU-FU-KU-FU. JUST LIKE A SOAP OPERA...!
OHHH, BIG SIS TOO.
KU TOO! KU TOO!
HOPING TO GET THE JUMP ON US AS WE LOOK ON?
MUSU-BIII!

OVER TIME, THEY'VE COME TO CONTROL THE DESTINY OF TEITO...NO, OF ALL PEOPLE.

THE "KUSHIMITAMA" I DREW FROM WITHIN AME-NO-IWAFUNE...

FOUR JINKI REMAIN—

WHAT DRIVES THEM TO FIGHT?

THE ASHIKABI WHO SEEK THE JINKI...

...AND THEIR SEKIREI.

THIS NEW MYTHOLOGY .....!

THE FATE OF HUMANITY.

THE BATTLE'S END.

I'LL OVERSEE IT ALL...

NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WHAT SAY WE RESUME THE THIRD PHASE?

Chapter 116: Resuming

Chapter 116: Resuming

KEEP OUT

.....I HAVE NO EXCUSE.

WORK UP THE COST OF THE DAMAGES.

SEND THE BILL TO MBI...

HEH...

... WHAT A HARSH BREAK-UP.

I NEVER EXPECTED SUCH VIOLENCE FROM HER.

THE DEMON... I MEAN, YUKARI SAHASHI...

THANK-FULLY, THE SMALL FIRE WAS CONTAINED, BUT...

I SAW HER FLEE WITH NO. 107 BEFORE MY VERY EYES.

DESPITE THE DAMAGE, SHE SOMEHOW GOT AWAY UNHARMED.

.....NO.

SEND IT TO CEO MINAKA HIMSELF.

.....SOME "CONFERENCE." JUST A CHANCE FOR THOSE GEEZERS TO GRUMBLE AT ME.

MEANWHILE, MY BUILDING IS SET ON FIRE, AND MY BRIDE ESCAPES.

I'VE NOW LOST FOUR SEKIREI.

OUR PATIENT WAS STOLEN FROM MY HOSPITAL, AND NO. 10 HAS CEASED FUNCTIONING ...

THEY DON'T MUCH LIKE BEING RUN ROUGH-SHOD BY THE COM-PANY'S UPSTART HEIR.

THE OLD FOOLS ON THE BOARD HAVE THEIR KNICKERS IN A TWIST.

SAME AS ALWAYS.

.....

...WHAT OF THE CONFERENCE AT HEAD-QUARTERS?

JUST HURRY UP AND BRING US THAT COMPANY'S SECRETS!!

SEKIREI PROJECT? TEITO BEING SEALED OFF? UTTER NONSENSE.

HOW LONG ARE WE GOING TO KEEP UP THIS TOUGH-GUY ACT TO MBI!?

SLAM

JOLT

...SHIT!

...FIRST THING I'LL DO IS TERMINATE THE LOT OF THEM...!!

ONCE I GET THOSE JINKI...

BASTARDS DON'T KNOW WHEN TO ROLL OVER AND DIE...!

VRRM
VRRM
VRRM
VRRM
VRRM

ACHOO!

SNIFFLE
ずび

GEEZ...YOU WOULDN'T EVEN NOTICE IF YOU DID CATCH COLD.

RUB
わしゃわしゃ
RUB

ALMOST CAUGHT EVERY MONSTER THERE IS.

YEAH, BUT I'M ALMOST DONE WITH THIS GAME.

COME ON, MIKOGAMI.

AGAIN? YOU HAVE TO STOP PLAYING VIDEO GAMES WITHOUT DRYING YOUR HAIR FIRST.

TIME FOR BED.

CLICK

ACK.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WELL, GUESS IT'S OKAY. I DID SAVE, AFTER ALL.

IF I GET ALL THE JINKI...

...YOU THINK NO. 43 AND NO. 38 CAN COME BACK?

...HEY, MUTSU.

.....
MUTSU.

...THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE USELESS THINGS?

I REALLY HATE THOSE TYPES.
ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY GO OFF AND LOSE AND LEAVE ME FOREVER.
RIGHT. I HATE THEM.

YOU WON'T LEAVE ME, RIGHT, MUTSU?

THOSE EYES AGAIN. LIKE AN ABANDONED PUPPY.
...GAH. IT GETS ME EVERY TIME...
RUFFLE
くしゃっ
...NO. THINK OF IT THIS WAY.
WE'RE THE PLAYABLE CHARACTERS IN A VIDEO GAME.
AND YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE CONTROLLER IN HAND.
THAT MEANS OUR FATES ARE RIDING ON YOU.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE UP TO IT...AS LONG AS YOU KEEP GRIPPING THAT CONTROLLER...

...YOUR SEKIREI WILL BE WITH YOU FOREVER.

OKAY.

RIGHT, SO...

IF I WIN THIS "GAME" AND GET ALL THE JINKI...

...THEN I CAN TRANSFORM THE WHOLE WORLD INTO A VIDEO GAME, JUST THE WAY I WANT IT, RIIIIIIGHT?

...WILL BE ME!

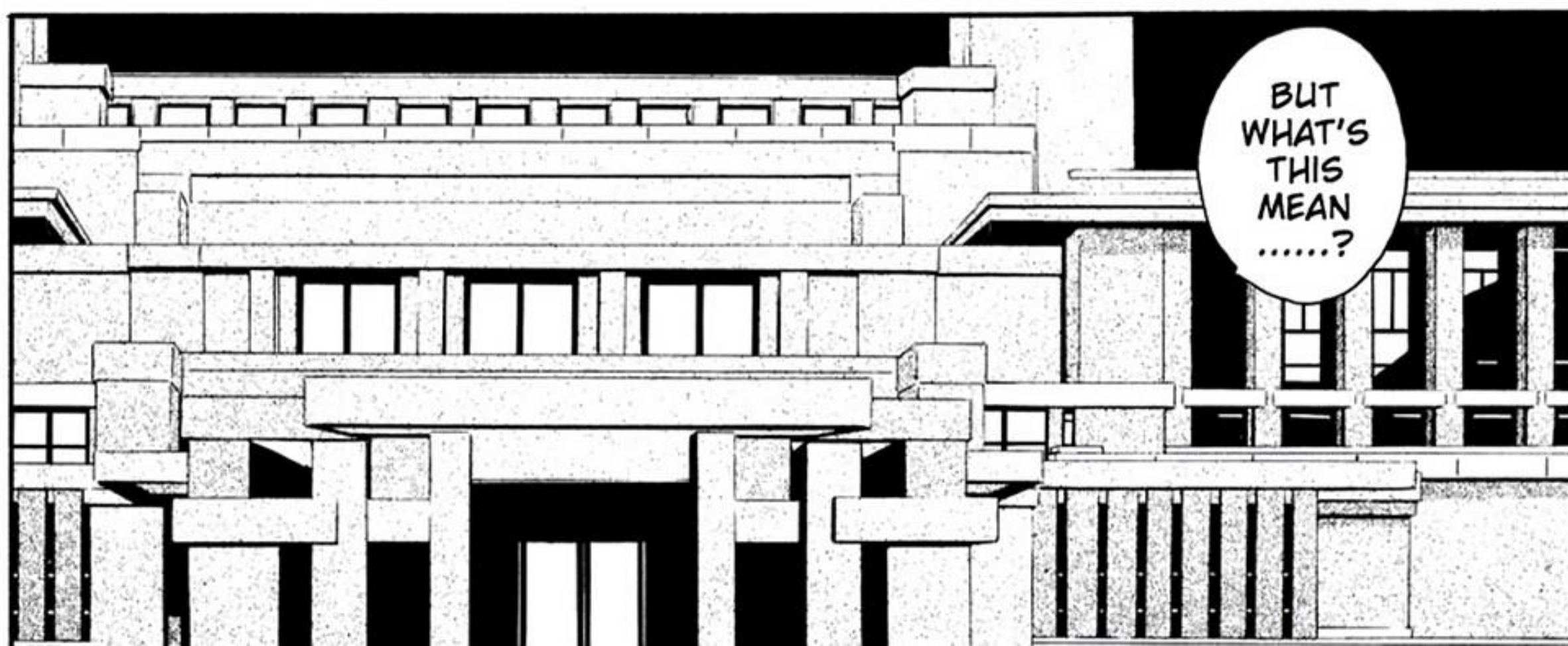
IT SEEMS!

THE ONLY ONE HOLDING THE CONTROLLER ...

THEN ALL THE TERMINATED SEKIREI WILL BE MINE!!

...HEY.

HEY, MIKOGAMI, CAN YOU AT LEAST TRY LISTENING TO PEOPLE WHEN THEY TALK?



CLEANING, CLEANING! ♡

THE BATH? AGAIN?

HA-HA... "RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB," IS IT?

WE'LL SAVE ON THE WATER BILL. ♡

YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF THE BATH, TSUKIUMI-SAN. ♡

MINATO-SAAAN, CAN YOU WASH THE WINDOWS ON THE SECOND FLOOR?

CREAK

ドドド

VROOM

...AND THE NORTHERN ASHIKABI'S HIDEOUT.

THE NORTHERN HANNYA...

I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF CLEANING THE BATH.

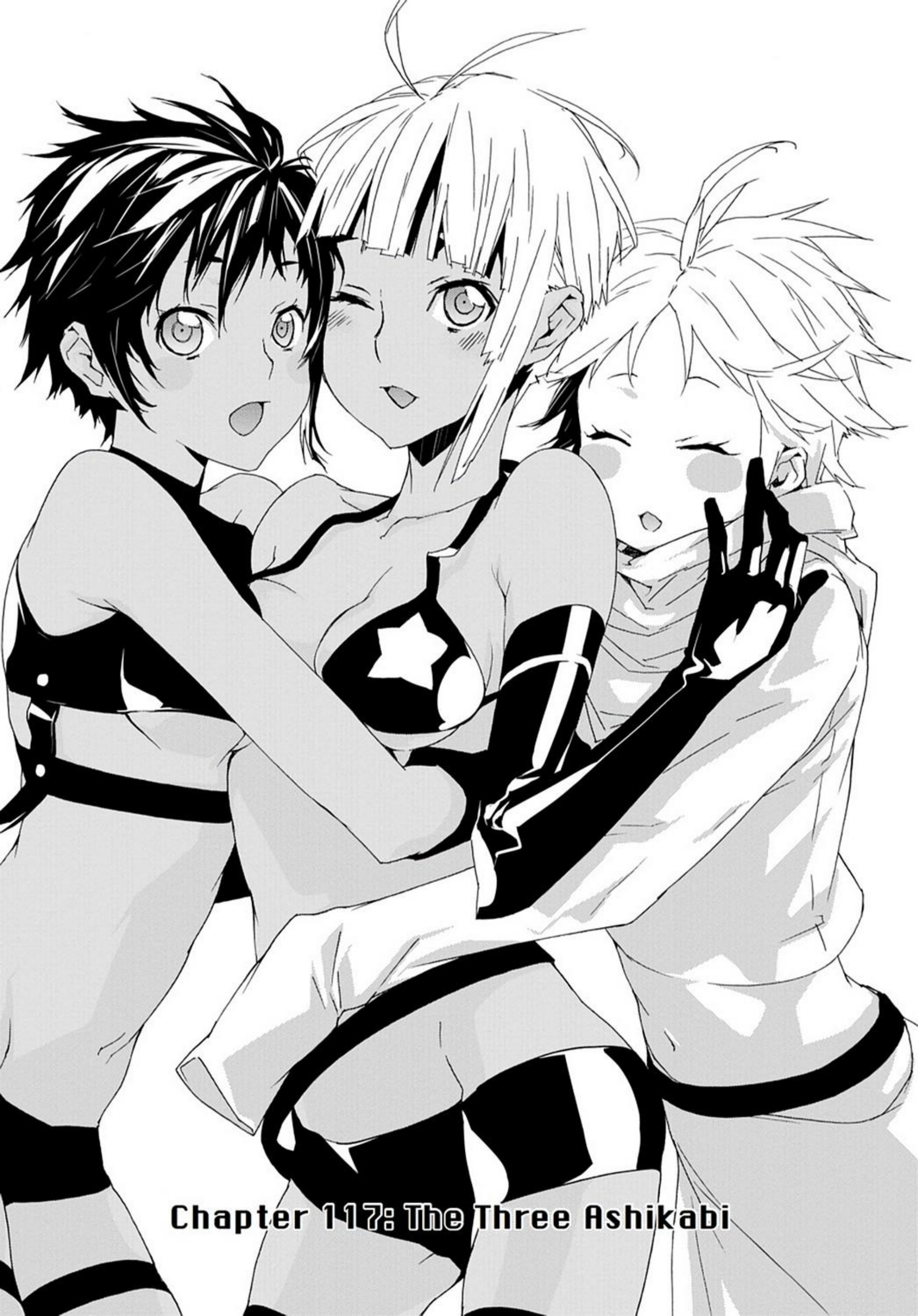
NOISE POLLUTION IN A PUBLIC PLACE IS THE HEIGHT OF RUDENESS!

TSU-TSUKI-UMI!!

SPLASH

BUH!

SO THIS IS HOW YOU GREET PEOPLE UP HERE IN THE NORTH...
I SEE...
...!
S—
SORRY ...
SA—
EEP!
SANADA OF THE WEST !?
EEEEEEK !?
GET READY TO RUMBLE !!
WELL, NISHI SANADA ...
...ISN'T ONE TO BACK DOWN FROM A FIGHT!



Chapter 117: The Three Ashikabi

...SO YOU'RE THE NORTHERN ASHIKABI, HUH?
Y—
YES.
TWITCH
THE WEST-ERN...
...ASHI-KABI .....
NICE SNEAK ATTACK ON ME THERE...
...FOR A GUY WITH SUCH A WIMPY FACE!
THE UNBELIEVABLE IMAGE THAT COMES TO MIND FROM THE FIRST ROUND

OH MY...

YOU'RE SOAKING WET! WHATEVER SHALL WE DO?

SHAKE

SHAKE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

S-SORRY...

SO SORRY...

NOW, WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION?

JUMP

STAY BACK...

N—

NO, LAND-LADY.

LAND... LADY...?

...LA...

!?

SMILE

DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH IZUMO INN?

HISS

WOWEE!

THIS TEA SURE IS TASTY! ♡

Y-YOU'VE GOT ME. I HAVE NO IDEA EITHER...

WHY'S SANADA OF THE WEST SITTING HERE DRINKING TEA LIKE IT'S NOTHING??

U-FU-FU-FU. BEAUTIFUL? NO, STOP.

TEA BREWED UP BY A BEAUTIFUL WIDOW IS OUT OF THIS WORLD! ♡

SIP

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY ONE OF MY GIRLS GOT YOU ALL WET.

MINA-TAN, MINA-TAN.

LET ME GET SOME TEA CAKES. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

PLEASE, TAKE YOUR TIME! ♡

BLOW

HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS SEKIREI WITH HIM.

DOESN'T SEEM LIKE HE'S HERE TO FIGHT...

AH... UMM...

S-SANADA OF THE WEST... SAN!

I'M SO SORRY WE GOT YOU WET...! REALLY SORRY.

TENSE

OR MAYBE JUST THE MATURE SET...?

BUT HE'S INTO WIDOWS? THAT'S A LITTLE CREEPY.

MATURE?

MATSU-SAAAN.

I CAN HEAR YOUUU.

EEP.

I'M GUESSING... YOU KNEW WE WOULD BE HERE...?

BUT... UM...

WHY'RE YOU HERE?

THAT BASTARD. SHOWING UP LATE, I GUESS.

"THAT GUY" ...?

HERE YOU ARE.

OOH, THANKS! ♡♡

NO WAY HE COULD'VE MEANT THIS CHARMING, PRETTY WIDOW!

AND SPOUTING LIES ABOUT A SCARY, THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD HAG OF A HANNYA LANDLADY IN THE NORTH.

HUH?

YOU MEAN THAT GUY DIDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT?

WAIT.

THEN "THAT GUY" MUST BE...

HEYA.

MIYA-CHAAAN, GOT SOME GRUB FOR ME?

SMASH

GAH.

THOUGH IT MIGHT'VE SLIPPED THAT YOU'RE OVER A THOUSAND YEARS OLD...

HAG!?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I'D NEVER SAY THAT!

WOW.

THAT PICKLING STONE WENT FLYING THROUGH THE AIR!!

KAORU-SAAAN, WHO IS THIS "HANNYA HAG" YOU APPARENTLY MENTIONED...?

SMASH

GYAAAH!

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!

SHE'S ONLY GOT EYES FOR HER DEAD HUSBAND.

...QUIT WHILE YOU'RE AHEAD.

SO STRONG...! I THINK I'M IN LOVE...!!

WHAT!?

HE'S ON A WHOLE 'NOTHER LEVEL OF STUPID.

WHOA...

THAT'S JUST HOW LOVE IS!

WHAAAAT!?

EVEN BETTER!!

PLAYING HARD TO GET, THEN?

RIGHT. SURE.

HUH? OH.

...WHY DON'T YOU GO AHEAD AND ASK WHY THEY'RE HERE?

...SAHA-SHI.

I CAN SEE THAT YOU'RE TOTALLY ENTRANCED BY THIS NONSENSE, BUT...

I'VE GOT AN EARNEST REQUEST FOR YOU GUYS.

R-REQUEST ...?

NO CLUE. THIS JERK CALLED ME OVER.

OH. RIGHT.

UM...

S-SO, SEO-SAN..... AND SANADA... SAN.

WHY'RE YOU TWO HERE?

I BROUGHT US TOGETHER TO CONVINCE YOU TWO OF SOMETHING.

IS THE BATH ALL CLEAN, TSUKIUMI-SAAAN?

OF COURSE. THAT'S WHY I CHANGED CLOTHING!

WE'LL THANK YOU NOT TO SCHEDULE MEETINGS AT THE HOMES OF OTHERS.

THAT'S WHY I HAD THIS DUMBASS MEET ME HERE TOO.

IT'S OBVIOUS, ISN'T IT?

THE REASON I THOUGHT WE THREE ASHIKABI SHOULD MEET NOW...

WHO THE HELL'S DUMB AS HELL?

HE'S ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES AND DUMB AS HELL, BUT HE'S NOT A BAD DUDE.

PROBABLY NO NEED FOR RE-INTRODUCTIONS, BUT THIS GUY'S THE WESTERN ASHIKABI— NISHI SANADA.

THE MESSAGE FROM MBI. YOU TWO...

...GOT *IT* TOO, YEAH?

...YEAH.

Let's get this fourth round started!
My dear Ashikabi!
Sender: Hirota Minaka
Let's get this fourth round started!
Hirota Minaka
Title: My dear Ashikabi!
Let's get this fourth round started!

"WE SINCERELY HOPE THAT TEN DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THIS MESSAGE...

"...YOU'LL ALL SHOW UP AT TEITO HARBOR'S MBI TERMINAL WITH YOUR LITTLE BIRDIES.

"JUST TO BE CLEAR—IT'S YOUR CHOICE TO PARTICIPATE OR NOT THIS ROUND.

"NO ONE IS FORCING YOU.

"I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU!

"SINCERELY, HIROTO MINAKA!"

AND I THINK "OPEN ENROLLMENT" IS HIS ROUNDABOUT WAY OF SAYING WE ACTUALLY ARE BEING FORCED TO JOIN.

BESIDES THE PLACE AND TIME, THERE'RE NO REAL DETAILS. IT'S A PRETTY CRYPTIC MESSAGE...

THAT BASTARD MINAKA, ALWAYS KEEPING THINGS GOOD AND MYSTERIOUS.

M-ME...

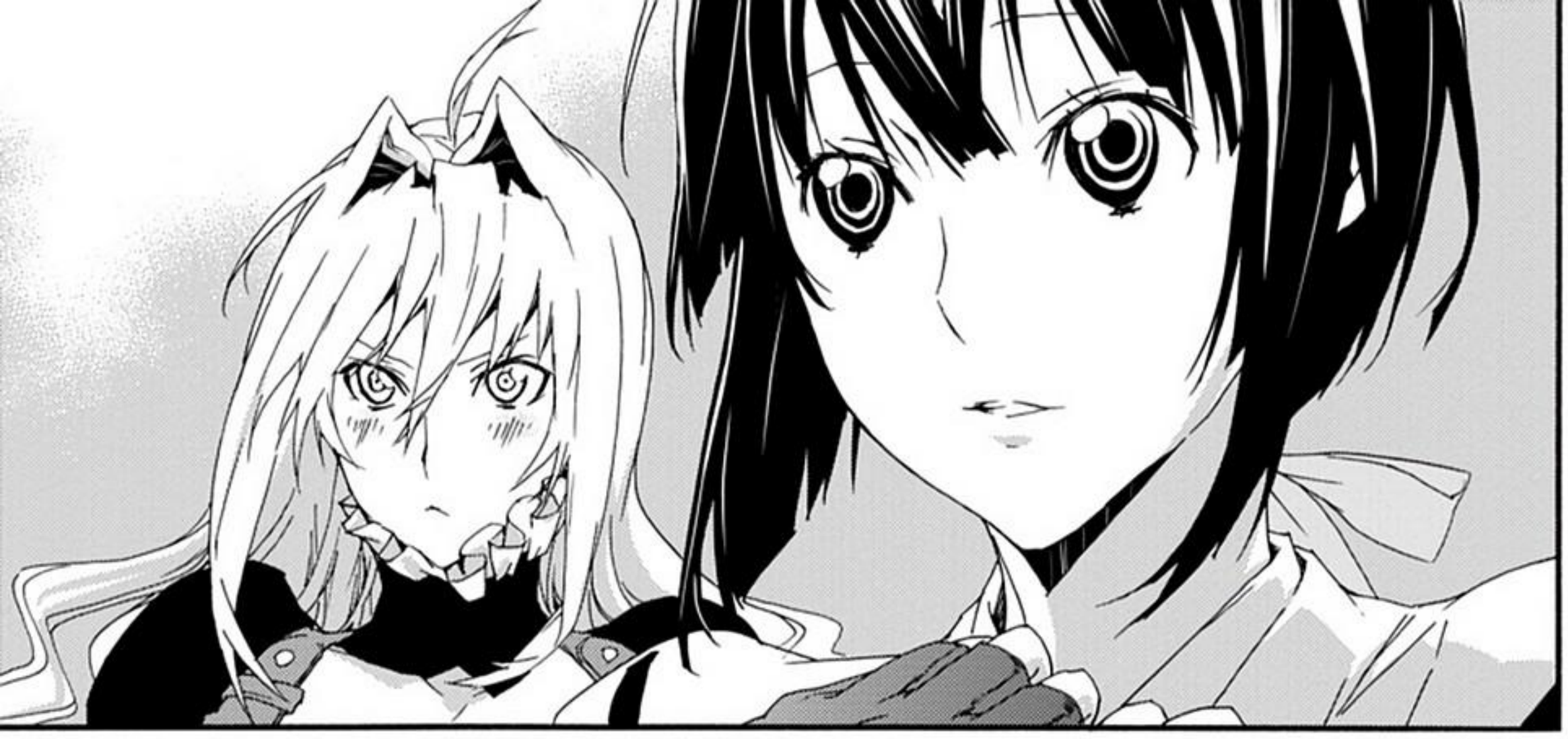
I'M GOING TOO. SEEMS INTERESTING.

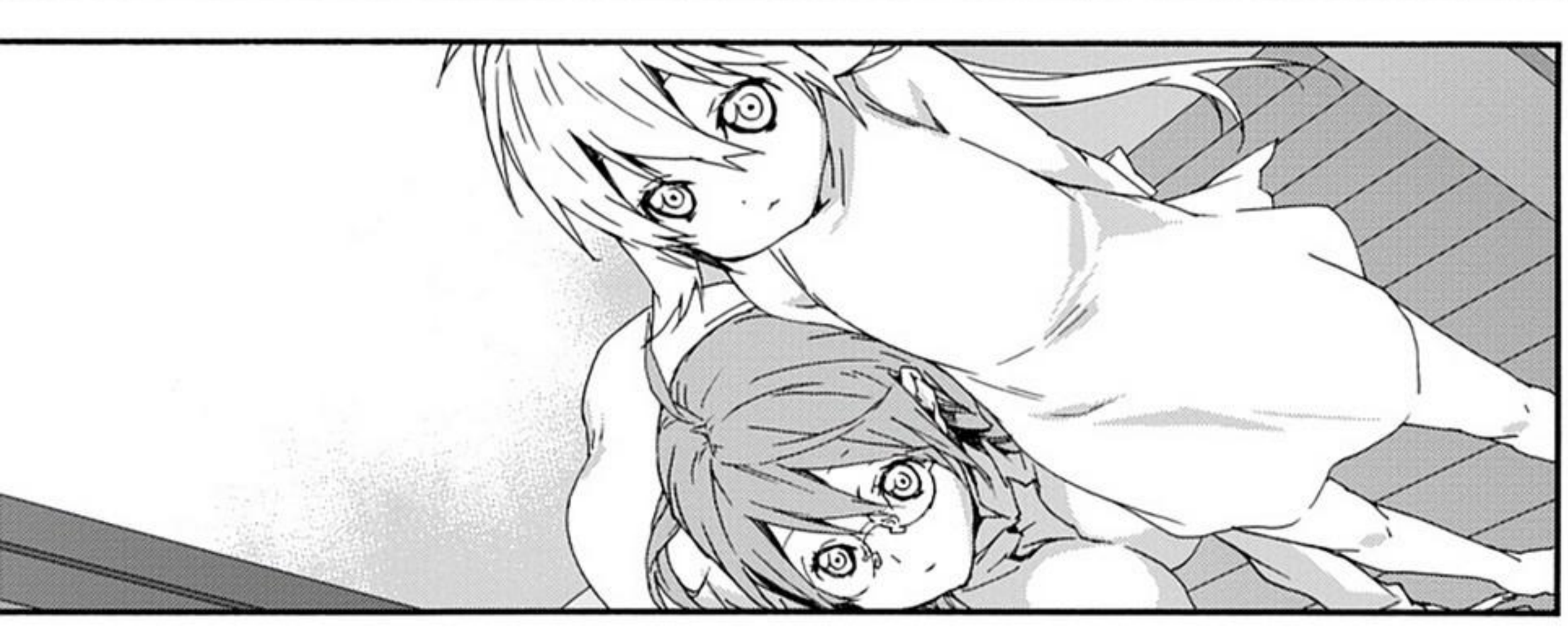
HOW ABOUT YOU TWO? YES OR NO?

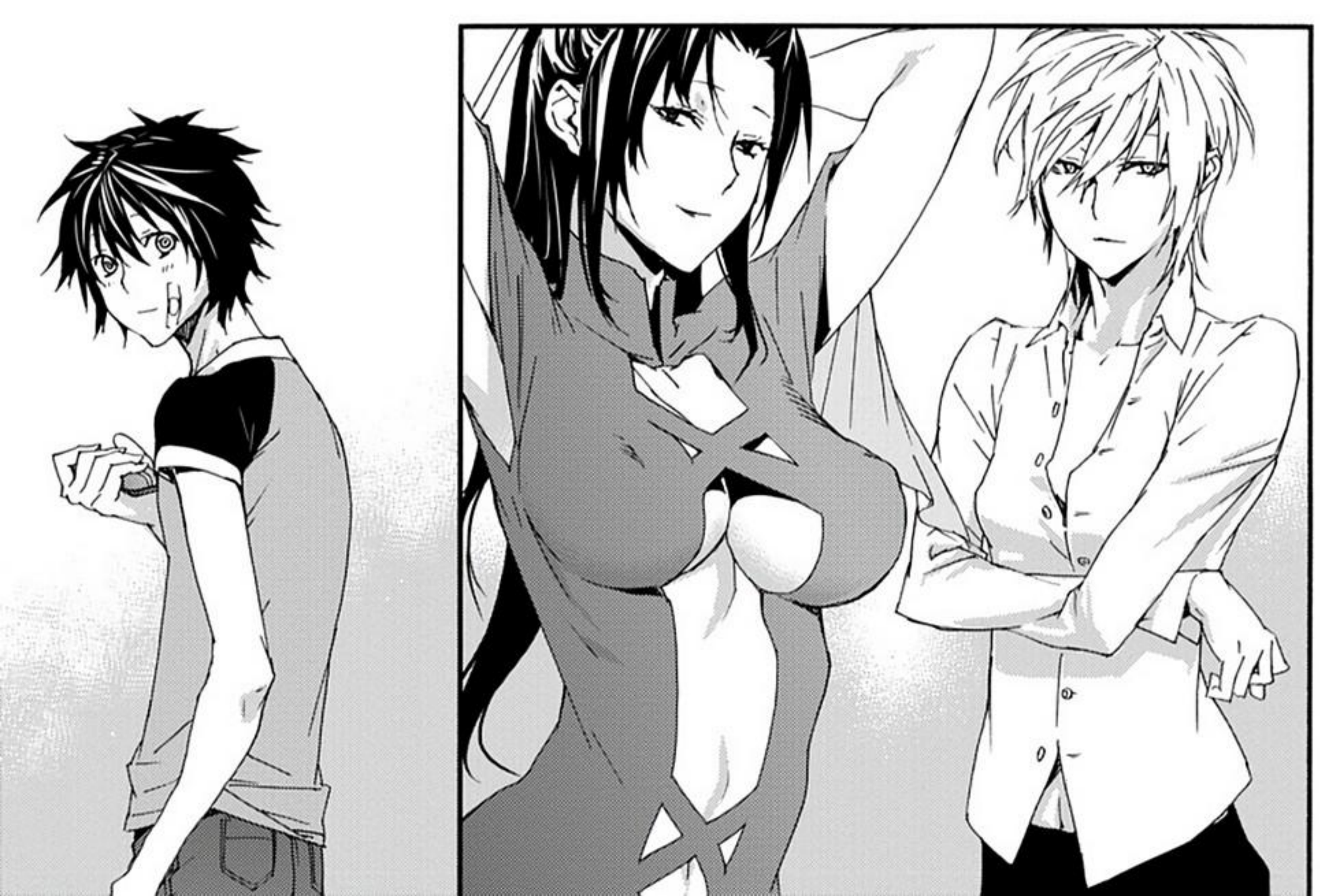
IT SOUNDS ANNOYING, BUT I'M IN.

ME TOO... I'LL GO.

THERE'S A REASON WHY I HAVE TO.







HEY... SEO-SAN.
NOOGIE
NOOGIE
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GROWN SOME BALLS SINCE THE LAST TIME WE MET, KID.
OUCH.
OWWW.

OH REALLY ...?

.....I'M THINKING...
IN FACT, SINCE THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH WE CAN DO ALONE...
BUT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MBI'S UP TO, SO WE CAN'T GET CARELESS...
FOR THIS FOURTH ROUND...
...WHY DON'T WE TEAM UP?

WHOOSH
ヒュウ!!...

YES.
LOOKS LIKE THIS MIGHT FINALLY BE OUR CHANCE, SHIINA!
THE FOURTH ROUND.
A PLACE WHERE ALL THE ASHIKABI'RE GONNA SHOW...

NO. 108...

THIS TIME, WE'RE GONNA FIND HER FOR SURE!

NO. 108, AT THAT VERY MOMENT

YOWCH!

CHOMP CHOMP

GET OFFA BIG BROTHER!

GET OFFA HIM?

I WASN'T TEASING HIM, I SWEAR!

KU-CHAN...

Chapter 118: The Fourth Round

HEY! YOU'RE...

...KUNI-MITSU-KUN! THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT?

THE FOURTH ROUND THOUGH...

WH-WHAT'LL WE DO, HARI...!!?

THIS IS TEITO HARBOR'S MBI TERMINAL.

W-W-WE'RE HERE.

HARI...

WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR.

I'M SURE WE'LL BE FINE THIS TIME TOO.

BEEN A WHILE. LAST SAW YOU IN THE FIRST PHASE, RIGHT?

GOOD TO SEE A FAMILIAR FACE!

OH—

MUTOU-KUN!?

...HUH?

DIDN'T YOU HAVE A SECOND SEKIREI, MUTOU-KUN?

IT WAS THIS BASTARD NAMED HIMURA ...!

HIS SEKIREI WAS JUST WAY TOO STRONG.

HELLO THERE, NINA-SAN. ♡

..... HELLO, HARI-SAN...

HIMURA !?

HE ACTUALLY CAME TO SEE ME, ONCE.

ASKED ME TO JOIN HIM IN ESCAPING TEITO.

I DIDN'T LIKE THE GUY, SO I REFUSED...

YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

OH... I SEE...

YEAH. THAT WAS MIMI.

SHE GOT TAKEN OUT DURING THE SECOND PHASE...

EVERYONE WHO TRIED ESCAPING WITH HIM...

...WERE DONE IN BY THE DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD.

AND SPEAKING OF TOUGH...

THOSE LIGHT-NING TWINS.

MY MIMI TOLD ME ABOUT THEM. THEY WENT AROUND CHASING UNWINGED SEKIREI... A PAIR OF OGRES THAT WOULDN'T QUIT.

WHOA. THAT'S PRETTY BRUTAL...

UN-WINGED !?

I HEARD THEY EVEN SHOWED UP IN THE THIRD ROUND.

YEAH.

MUTTER ぼそ

WHISPER ひそ

MUTTER ぼそ

THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD..."MBI'S DOGS," RIGHT? THEY SAY IF YOU RUN INTO THAT BEASTLY GROUP, IT'S CURTAINS FOR YOU...

ぼそ MUTTER

WHAT !?

D-D-DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD ...!?

SHHH. KEEP IT DOWN.

THEN THERE'S THOSE "EAST," "SOUTH," AND "WEST" GUYS.

WE'RE SURE TO RUN INTO SOME TOUGH CUSTOMERS SOON.

IF THEY GET SERIOUS IN A FIGHT, YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH OUT OF THE GAME...

☆MENTAL IMAGE

THEIR ASHIKABI'S SOME GUY NAMED "SEO."

WHOA... HOW BAD COULD THIS ASHIKABI BE...?

AND, "HE'S THE WORST OF THE WORST ASHIKABI!"

THOSE BRUTAL SEKIREI THEMSELVES SAY, "IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT HARDSHIP SINCE WE WERE WINGED."

ALSO... LOOK, THERE THEY ARE.

THAT ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI TEAM.

IT'S SEKIREI NO. 87, KAHO, AND HER ASHIKABI, ORIHIKO OOSUMI.

I'VE HEARD THEY'RE PRETTY DAMN STRONG TOO...

☆ MENTAL IMAGE

A LITTLE GIRL!? A MAN!?

WOW ...

SIX!?

HE'S APPARENTLY GOT SIX SEKIREI UNDER HIM.

RUMOR HAS IT THERE'S ONE WITH GIANT BOOBS, A LITTLE GIRL, AND EVEN A MAN.

THE NORTHERN ASHIKABI.

AND DON'T FORGET THE RECENT RISING STAR.

HOPE HE STAYS HOME.

..... RIGHT.

DON'T REALLY WANNA THINK ABOUT IT...

YEAH.

WE'D BETTER WATCH OUR BUTTS.

AN UNMATCHED ASHIKABI WHO'D EVEN WING A MALE SEKIREI...

.....I JUST HOPE HE DOESN'T SHOW UP HERE.

.....I KNOW THE ONES...

YEAH.

THE WORST OF THEM ALL... WOULD BE THAT PAIR.....

BUT..... .....

THE DEMON AND REAPER.

☆ MENTAL IMAGE

THEY'VE TERMINATED COUNTLESS SEKIREI...

...AND SENT THEIR ASHIKABI TO THE HOSPITAL...

I HEARD IT STRAIGHT FROM A FORMER ASHIKABI NAMED TANIGAWA.

IT WASN'T JUST HIS SEKIREI. THEY EVEN STRIPPED HIM NAKED!

OH, I HEARD ABOUT THAT TOO.

THE DEMON AND REAPER ARE SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE IN TEITO, THEY SAY.

IF YOU CAN'T PROVIDE ANY INFO, THEN THEY KICK THE CRAP OUTTA YOU.....

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

LIKE AN OCCULT URBAN LEGEND AT THIS POINT.

WHOA ...

...THEY'RE THE LAST ONES I WANNA RUN INTO...

...YEP...

WE'RE JUST ORDINARY, POWERLESS ASHIKABI WHO DON'T REALLY LIKE FIGHTING.

I ONLY KNOW THE RUMORS, MYSELF.

SO...YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THEM BY SIGHT...

DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE...

HELL NO! OF COURSE NOT!

YOU EVER MEET THEM, KUNIMITSU-KUN?

YOU DON'T THINK THEY'LL COME THIS TIME, SURELY ...?

S-SERIOUSLY !?

WHOA... WHOA...

THAT WAS THE DEMON ASHIKABI'S DOING...

TH-THAT WHOLE SECTION OF THE CITY WAS SHUT DOWN TO TRAFFIC.

OH, YOU HEAR ABOUT THE FIRE IN THAT SKYSCRAPER IN THE EAST, THE OTHER DAY?

BY THE WAY... KUNIMITSU-KUN...

"HE"...HUH? YOU TOO, MUTOU-KUN?

...DID "HE" CONTACT YOU?

SAFE TO SAY NEARLY EVERYONE HERE WAS CONTACTED...

EVERY-ONE...

THOSE TWO OVER THERE ALSO GOT A CALL.

IS THIS PLACE THE MBI TERMINAL?

HEY THERE. 'SCUSE MEEE!

HUH?

UH, YES.

BADUM

I'M HONESTLY NOT SURE HOW TO RESPOND.....

I-IF YOU DO, MUTOU-KUN, THEN I WILL TOO...

HOW ABOUT YOU, KUNIMITSU-KUN? YOU TRUST HIM?

GREAT. THOUGHT SO!

D—

D...

IS HER SEKIREI A GIRL OR A BOY?

CUTE EITHER WAY...

AN ASHIKABI? RIGHT...?

NEVER SEEN A GIRL ONE BEFORE...

...!?

AAAAH!

...D—

THE DEMON...

...AND REAPER !!

IT'S THE DEMON AND...
... REAPER !?
IT'S THE DEMON!
EEK...
HUUUH?
SHE'LL STOMP ON OUR FAMILY JEWELS!
THE DEMON, SHE'LL ...
DEMON AND REAPER!
THIS IS... BAD.
WHOA ...
WAAAAH!

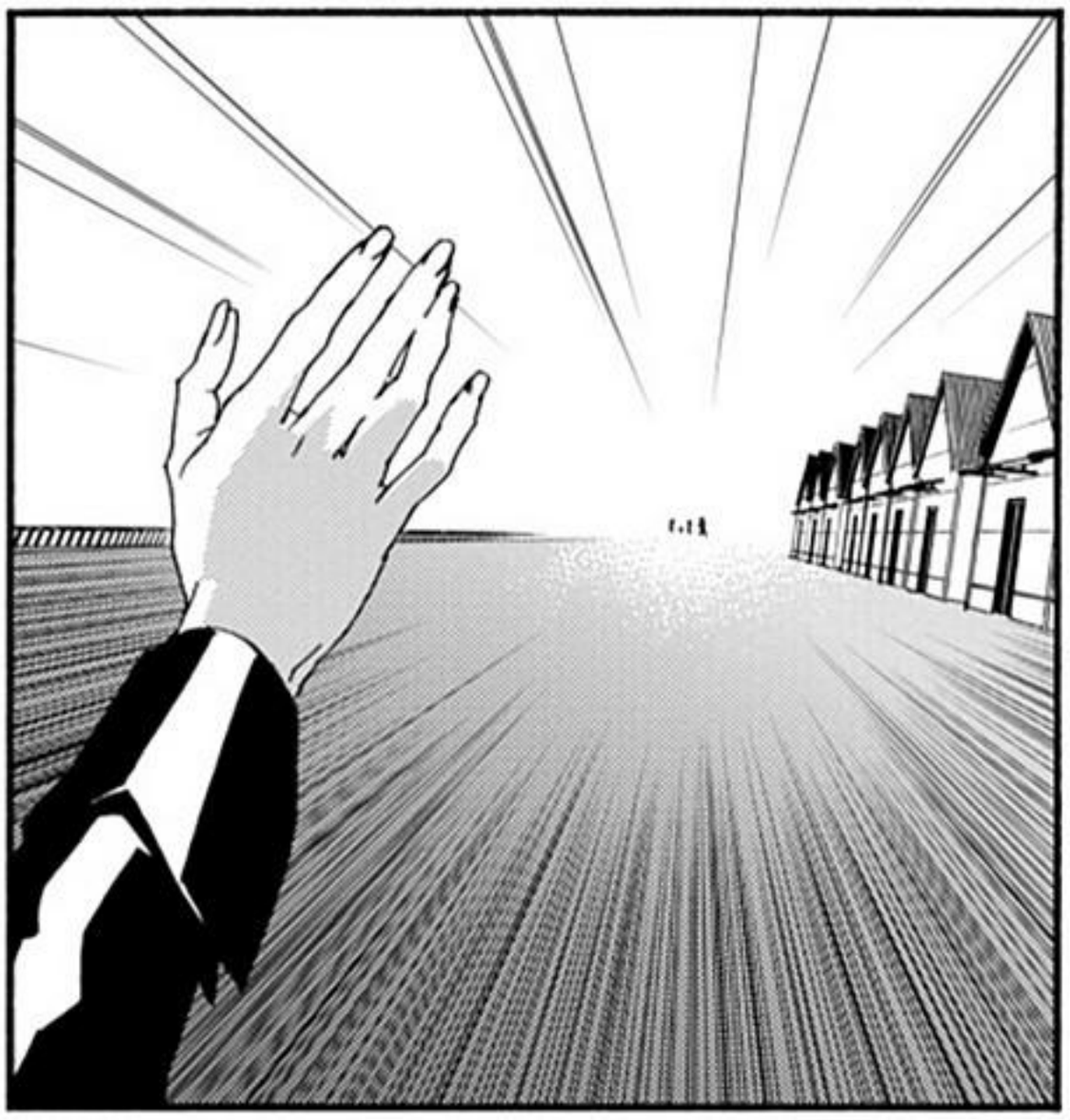
SHE'S GONNA STOMP ON US DOWN THERE!

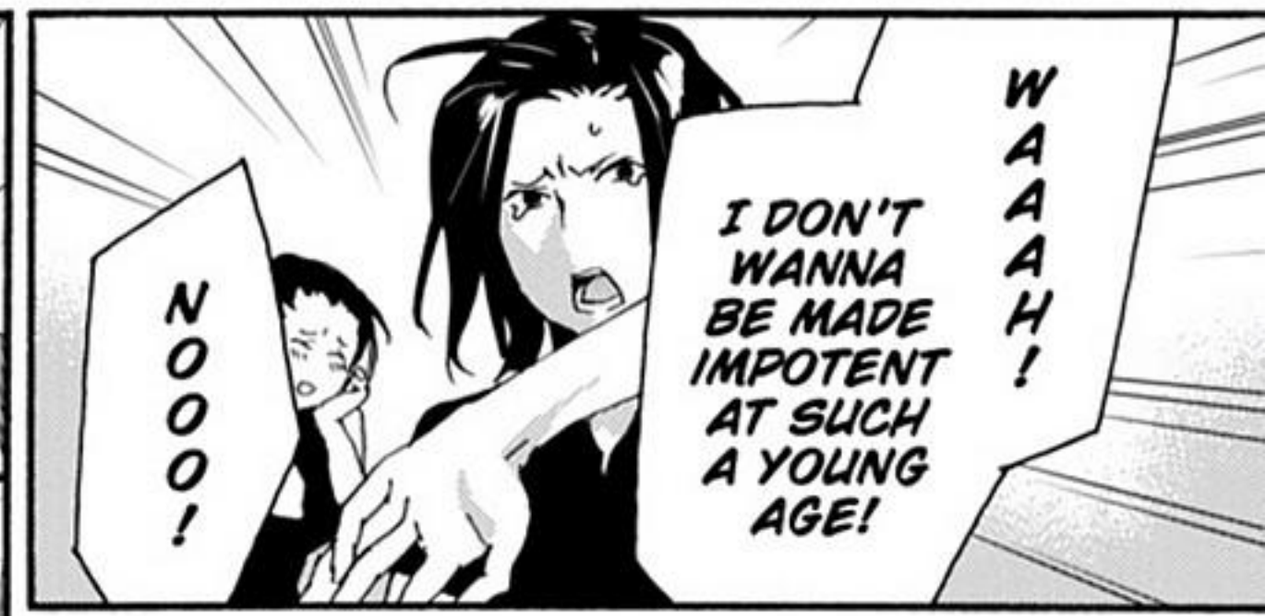
EEEK!

SHE'S GONNA STRIP US NAKED!

HEY.

YOU GUYS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT NO. 108...?





Wagtail

WAAAH! KYAAAH!

?

SOME KIND OF UPROAR?

RUN AWAY!

WAAH!

UMM...

WH-WHAT HAPPENED OVER THERE?

TH-THE DEMON AND REAPER ARE HERE!

WELL, MORE LIKE THESE TWO KEPT ME UP ALL NIGHT, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...!

STOP THAT! NOT IN FRONT OF CHILDREN.

WHA...?

SEO!!

YO, SAHASHI!

YOU'D BETTER RUN TOO—

SEO!?

SHOCK

SEO-SAN!

SORRY, MAN.

I OVER-SLEPT.

YOU'RE LATE.

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

SEO-SAN...

NICE! WE MADE IT!

VROOM

VROOM

NISHI SANADA-SAMA IS HERE.

NORTH ASHI-KABI!

YEAH... I'M MINATO SAHASHI.

"SEO"...! "SANADA OF THE WEST" .....!!

TH-THAT MAKES YOU...

THE HELL ...?

CRACKLE

WH—

WHOAA!

HOLD ON... WHO'RE YOU...?

MASTER!

NO WAY!

NO WAY WE'RE FIGHTING GUYS LIKE THAT!!

NO WAY, NO WAY, NO WAY!!

HIROYUKI KUNIMITSU AND HIS SEKIREI, PLUS FOUR OTHER PAIRS, WITHDREW FROM THE FOURTH ROUND

...WHY DON'T WE TEAM UP?

FOR THIS FOURTH ROUND...

DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A BAD PLAN.

TEAM UP WITH YOU, SEO-SAN...?

I'M TALKING ABOUT UNITING HERE.

THAT IDIOT'S TEXT DIDN'T SAY WE COULDN'T.

SO YOU'RE IN, SANADA?

THE MORE THE MERRIER IN A FESTIVAL LIKE THIS!

YEAH.

IN THE THIRD ROUND...

WE WERE BASICALLY TOLD TO SLAUGHTER EACH OTHER...

THERE'D BE LITTLE USE IN TEAMING UP, IN THAT CASE...!

I'M AFRAID THERE'S A RATHER OBVIOUS PROBLEM WITH YOUR PLAN.

SEO-TAN, SEO-TAN.

FESTI-VAL...

YEAH...I THOUGHT OF THAT TOO.

IF IT'S A RACE TO THE FINISH, LIKE IN THE FIRST ROUND, THEN FINE, BUT...

I KNOW.

WE CAN JUST PLAY DEAD! ♡

M-MUSUBI-CHAN... WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A BEAR ATTACK HERE...

AND YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY SUPPOSED TO PLAY DEAD WHEN UP AGAINST A BEAR...

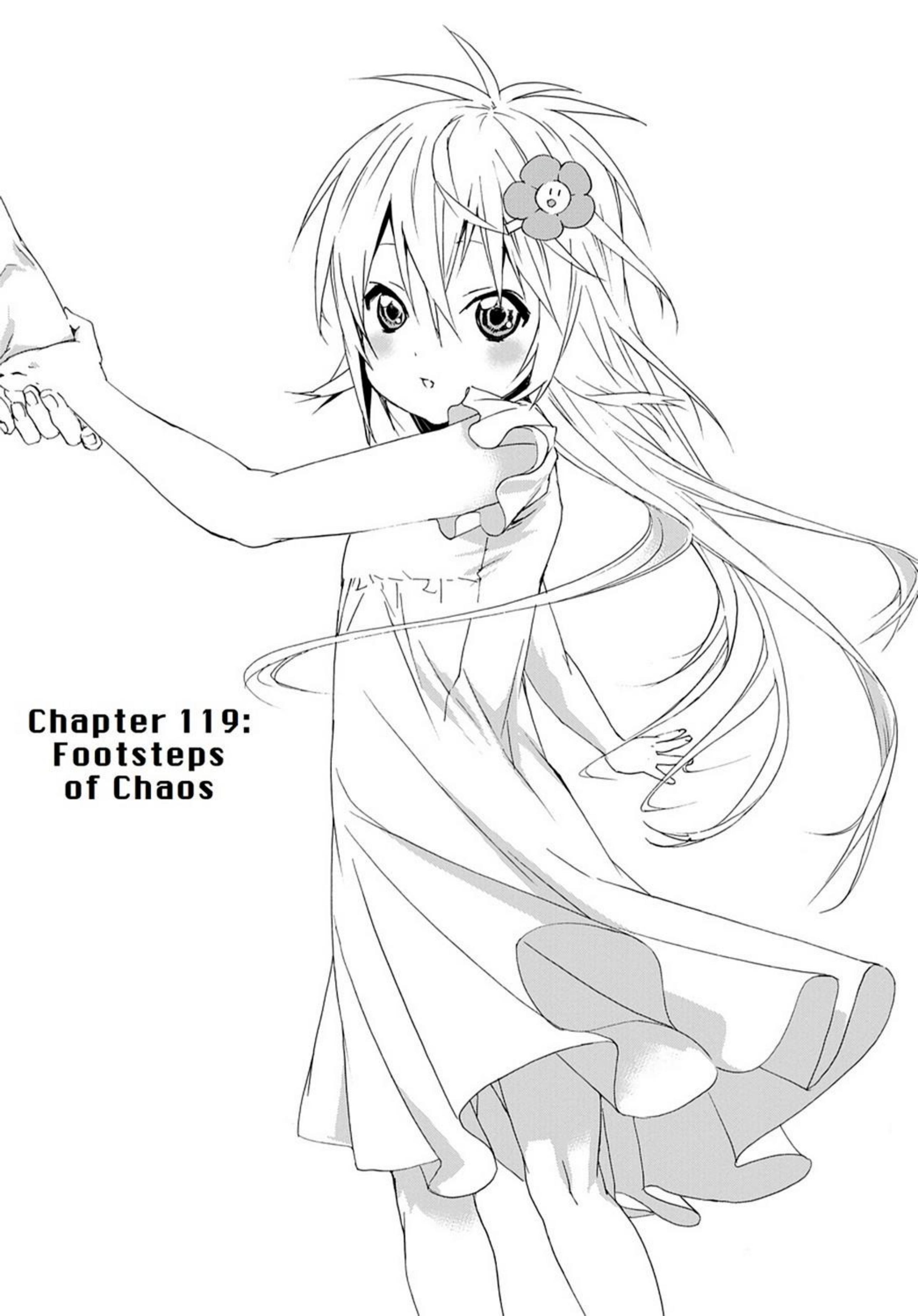
OOH.

PLAY DEAD! ♡

WAIT... MINA-TAN.

MAYBE...

...THERE ACTUALLY IS SOMETHING TO THAT.



Chapter 119: Footsteps of Chaos

To all Ashikabi and Sekirei gathered at MBI Terminal.

Boarding preparations are complete.

BOARDING PASS? WHAT'S THIS?

Then, feel free to board MBI's cruise ship, the S.S. Minaka.

Ashikabi— please be sure to receive your boarding passes at the entry gate.

BOAT!

TMP

TMP

OH, KU-CHAN!

MUST HAVE...SOME DIGITAL INFO ON IT?

TCH.

I'M NOT CRAZY ABOUT HANGING ON TO ANYTHING MBI GIVES US.

THEY'RE PLOTTING SOME-THING, FOR SURE.

Wagtail
CHATTER
CHATTER
THEY'RE BECOMING FAST FRIENDS... KIDS WILL BE KIDS, I GUESS...
POP
STRUGGLE
The S.S. Minaka is now casting off.
Terribly sorry to keep you waiting.

SHOCK
ビクッ

KINDA MAKES SENSE THAT THEY WOULDN'T COME.

PAY HIM BACK !!?

I WANTED TO PAY HIM BACK FOR THE FIRST ROUND.

SERI-OUSLY? THAT KID'S NOT HERE?

BESIDES US, I ONLY SAW ONE OTHER ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI PAIR.

I JUST TOOK A QUICK GLANCE AROUND THE SHIP.

YO.

NO SIGN OF HIGA OF THE EAST, HIS FOUR-EYED PAL, OR THE BRAT FROM THE SOUTH.

HE LOOKS HAPPY... I GUESS SANADA-SAN DOESN'T REALLY HAVE A TYPE AFTER ALL...?

REALLY ?

THE ASHIKABI WAS A GIRL. THAT'S TWO CUTIES, TOTAL.

NICE.

IF WE PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, ANYONE WITH A JINKI ALREADY HAS A "CHANCE."

WHAT? DON'T GET FRIENDLY WITH US!

SOME MOOD AROUND HERE, HUH, HIKARI?

WOW. BIG BOOBS.

CHATTER

PIKA-CHAN, HI-CHAN, SHOOT SOME LIGHTNING! ♡

CHATTER

CHATTER

LIKE THAT IDIOT'S TEXT SAID, EACH REMAINING JINKI REPRESENTS A "CHANCE" FOR ONE OF US.

HUH? WHY'S THAT?

BASICALLY, IT'S A GAME OF MUSICAL CHAIRS.

SO IT'S LIKE THEY KNOW THAT THEY DON'T KNOW?

NO WONDER THEY DON'T FEEL LIKE THROWING THEMSELVES INTO THIS DANGEROUS SITUATION. WE'VE GOT NO CLUE WHAT'S COMING.

THE PEOPLE WHO'RE ALREADY SEATED DON'T NEED TO TAKE ACTION.

ALL THIS TALK ABOUT CHANCES CAN ONLY POINT TO ONE THING.

SOME-THING'S COMING *AFTER* PHASE THREE...

THOSE GUYS MUST BE ANTICI-PATING THAT.

SPLASH

SPLASH

YOU SEEM TO KNOW MORE ABOUT IZUMO INN'S MYSTERIES THAN I DO, SEO-SAN...

DID SHE REALLY JUST STICK IT UP IN THE CEILING LIKE A PIECE OF JUNK?

THE ONE FROM THE THIRD ROUND AND THE ONE YOUR BRAIDED BURGLAR PINCHED.

YOU'VE GOT TWO JINKI, RIGHT, SAHASHI?

SPEAKING OF...

...WELL, THAT'S PART OF IT.

I'M ALSO KIND OF GREEDY.

IF THERE'S A WAY TO RAISE MY "CHANCES," YOU BET I'M GONNA GO AFTER IT.

...BECAUSE YOU ASKED ME TO, SEO-SAN.

THAT MEANS ...

YOU'VE ALREADY GOT A "CHANCE" IN HAND.

WHY'D YOU EVEN COME HERE TODAY?

THAT MUST BE WHY YOU'RE HERE, RIGHT?

...HOW DANGEROUS THE JINKI CAN BE.

...BE-SIDES...

YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH THE LANDLADY'S LATE HUSBAND, SEO-SAN, SO YOU OUGHT TO KNOW...

I WON-DERED WHY.

...EVEN WITH YOUR HATRED OF MBI, YOU STILL TOOK PART IN THE SEKIREI PROJECT.

ESCAPING TEITO SEEMED WELL WITHIN YOUR ABILITIES, YET...

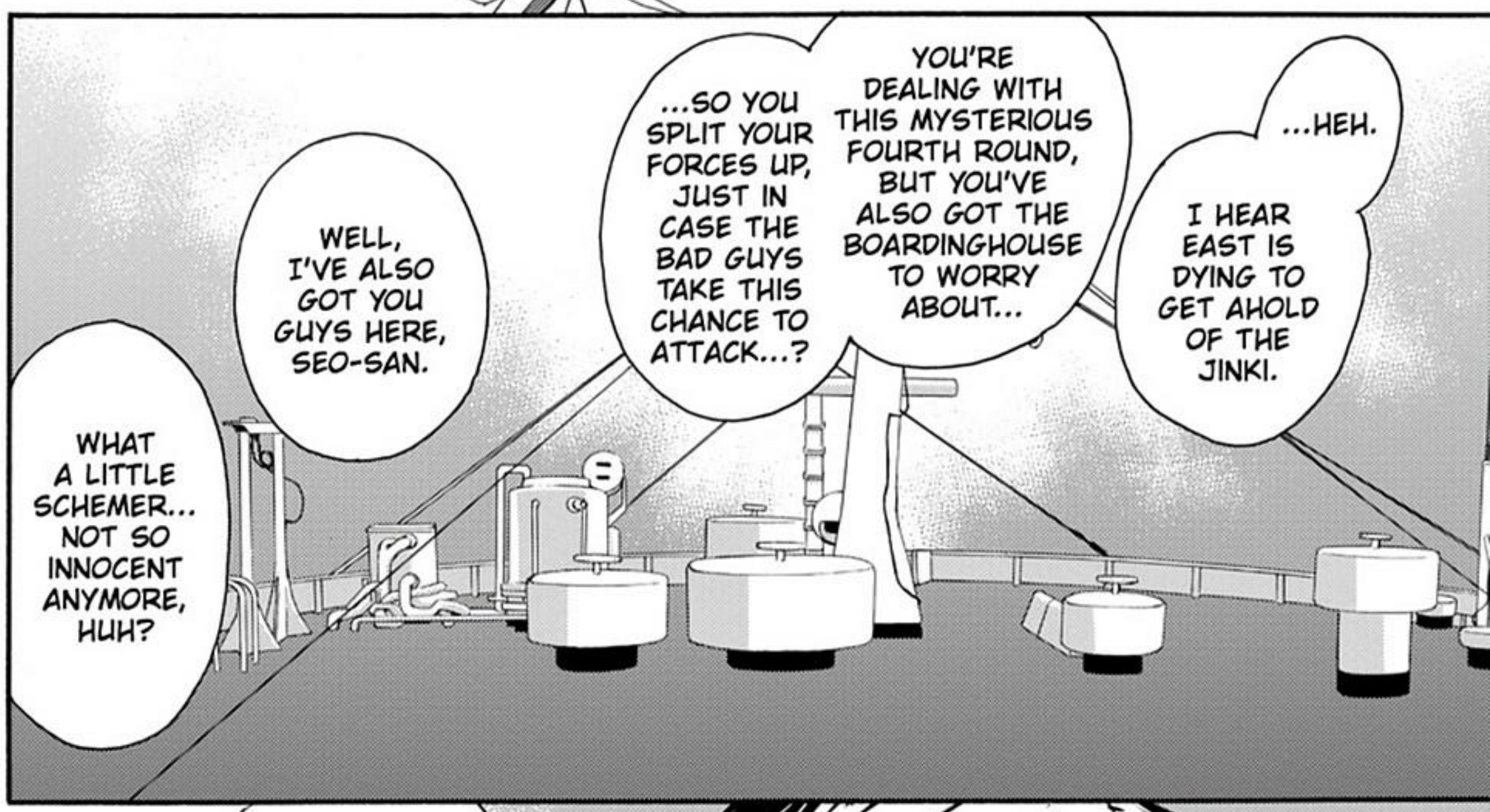
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS ODD.

OW, OWWW!
S-SORRY.
GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND GRIND
WHERE'D THAT NAIVE, LOVABLE KID GO!?
...TCH.

YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, SEO-SAN.
YOU KNOW HOW SCARY THE JINKI REALLY ARE, SO YOU DON'T WANT THEM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF ANYONE HEARTLESS..... RIGHT?
I'M PRETTY SURE THAT'S IT.

THAT DECISION WAS ALSO TO INCREASE MY "CHANCES"...

YOU'RE DAMN RIGHT THOUGH. BUT THEN, WHY'D YOU ONLY BRING ALONG THE PIP-SQUEAK?
...IS BEING BULLIED AGAIN!
OH, BIG BROTHER...


WHAT A LITTLE SCHEMER... NOT SO INNOCENT ANYMORE, HUH?
WELL, I'VE ALSO GOT YOU GUYS HERE, SEO-SAN.
...SO YOU SPLIT YOUR FORCES UP, JUST IN CASE THE BAD GUYS TAKE THIS CHANCE TO ATTACK...?
YOU'RE DEALING WITH THIS MYSTERIOUS FOURTH ROUND, BUT YOU'VE ALSO GOT THE BOARDINGHOUSE TO WORRY ABOUT...
...HEH.
I HEAR EAST IS DYING TO GET AHOLD OF THE JINKI.

...YOU THOUGHT WE SHOULD HAVE ME, THAT DUMBASS, AND A GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN' ROUNIN STANDING IN THEIR WAY?
KNOWING THE DANGER AND KNOWING YOU DON'T WANT THE JINKI GOING TO THEM...
SO IN THE END...

JUST REMEMBER THAT.

THAT'S REAL DANGER FOR YA.

LISTEN. MY FRIEND WAS KILLED OVER THE JINKI.

TAKEHITO ASAMA-SAN.....

THE LANDLADY'S HUSBAND...

YOUR FRIEND...

CLAK CLAK CLAK

...AND MATSU'S PLENTY SCARED OF THAT HAPPENING.

IF NO. 01 TAKES ACTION, SO DOES NO. 04...

FU-FU.

IT MUST BE HARD, BEING A STRATE-GIST.

MATSU-SAN...

...SHOULD I REALLY JUST STAND BY AND DO NOTHING?

Hey.

MUSUBI AND FRIENDS ...
...ARE READY AND WAITING!

FWOOM

FWOOM

FWOOM

FWOOM

FWOOM

Ladies and gentle-men!

So sorry for the long wait.

Now...

...THE FOURTH ROUND WILL BEGIN!
AND THIS MARKS...
...THE SEKIREI PROJECT THIRD PHASE'S...
...FINAL ROUND!!!

FINAL ROUND ...!?

Here is your stage—

The S.S. Minaka, out in Teito Harbor!

This ship won't return to land until the fourth round is over.

URGH.

URP.

ARE YOU OKAY?

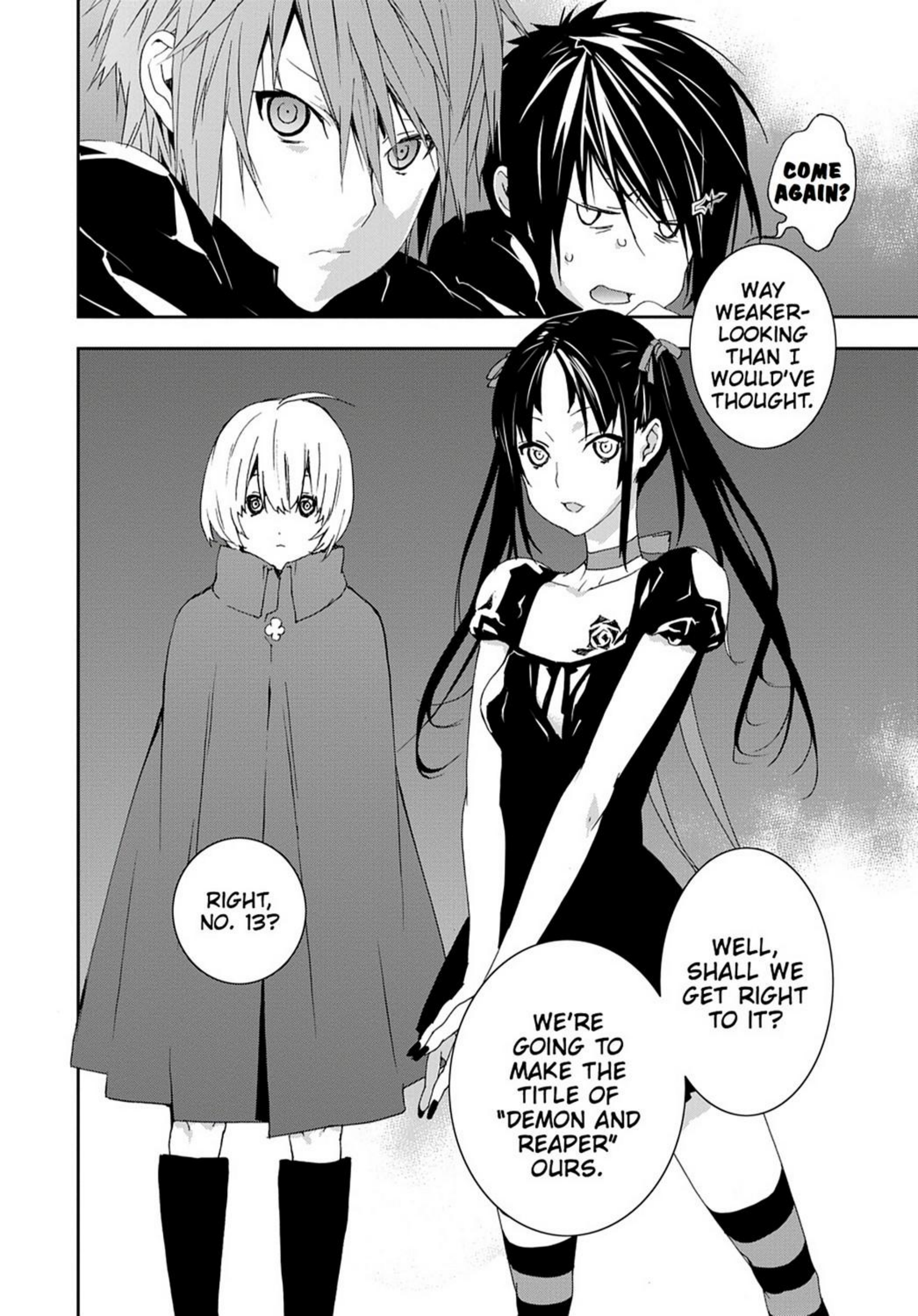
LET'S GO ABOVE DECK AND GET YOU SOME FRESH AIR.

I USUALLY DON'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH MOTION SICKNESS, BUT.....

IT'S NO GOOD... BOATS ARE MY ONE WEAKNESS...

THIS IS THE INFAMOUS "DEMON AND REAPER" PAIR?

WHAT A LET-DOWN...


COME AGAIN?
WAY WEAKER-LOOKING THAN I WOULD'VE THOUGHT.
RIGHT, NO. 13?
WELL, SHALL WE GET RIGHT TO IT?
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THE TITLE OF "DEMON AND REAPER" OURS.

DID THE COMPANY ORDER YOU TO, OR WHAT?
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU LOVE EACH OTHER...
WHY'D YOU BOND WITH BLACK IN THE FIRST PLACE?
?
HEY, NATSUO.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING FOR A WHILE...
LIKE YOU'RE ANY DIFFERENT, BLUE!!
NAH...I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE NATSUO'S PERSONALITY...
SHUT UP!
YOU'RE OVER THE MOON FOR HIM...
HEH HEH...BENI-TSUBASA— YOUR CASE IS MUCH SIMPLER...
HMM.
TELL ME! TELL MEEE!!
WILL YOU TELL ME?
HOW DO I PUT THIS?
Side Story: The Tale of Black's World

THAT...
...IS THE CEO'S SPECIAL SEAT.
HEY.
YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED UP HERE.

YEAH.

I KNOW.

THINK SOMEONE WOULD DIE IF THEY FELL FROM THIS HEIGHT?

HEY.

HIGH... AND SCARY...

...SO HIGH UP HERE.

...YOU WANNA DIE?

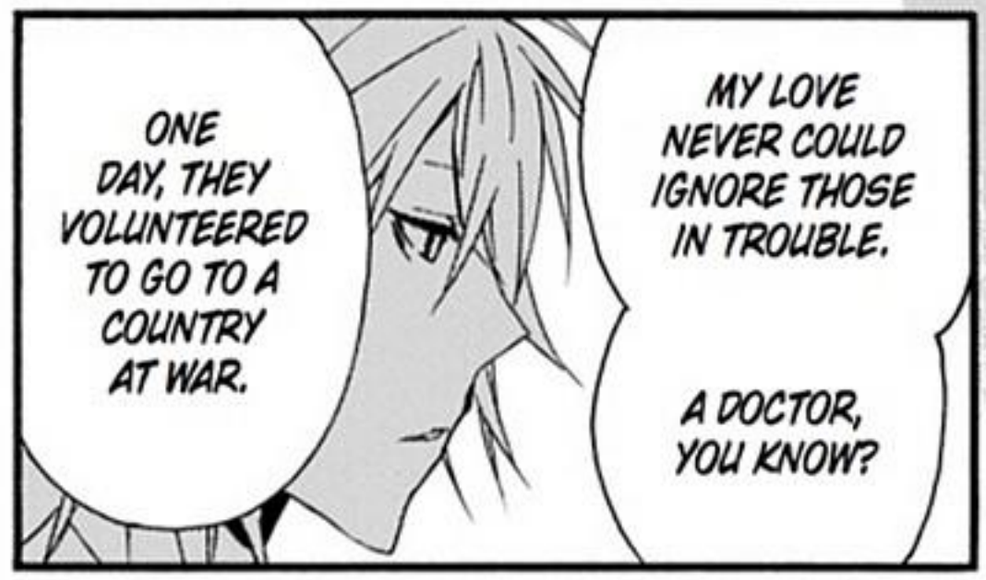
BUT...

I'M A LITTLE LOST, YOU SEE.

...I SEE...

HMM...

CAN'T SAY I'M A FAN OF PAIN THOUGH.


ONE DAY, THEY VOLUNTEERED TO GO TO A COUNTRY AT WAR.
MY LOVE NEVER COULD IGNORE THOSE IN TROUBLE.
A DOCTOR, YOU KNOW?

THERE WAS GUNFIRE. AN ACCIDENT.
THE BONES NEVER EVEN MADE IT HOME.
I NEVER LEARNED ANY OTHER DETAILS.

THE PERSON I LOVED DIED.

...I'M CONSTANTLY HIT WITH THESE WAVES OF DESPAIR.
AND EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T FIGURE OUT WHO TO BLAME...
I DON'T EVEN REALLY HAVE ANY MEMENTOS.
SO IT STILL DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE THEY'RE GONE.
I WAS USED TO MY LOVE ALWAYS RUNNING OFF PLACES EMPTY-HANDED.

AT A WORLD WITHOUT HIM IN IT.

AT THE WORLD THAT STOLE MY LOVE FROM ME.
...NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
MAYBE I'M JUST ANGRY?

...AH.

I GET THAT.

...THAT'S WHAT THIS FEELING IS.....

.....I SEE. SO...

THIS WORLD.

THEN WE CAN TRY DESTROYING IT.

...WHY NOT LEND ME YOUR POWER?

...IN THAT CASE...

"SEKIREI"...

GREATER THAN THE GREATEST WEAPONS.

I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT.

MBI'S SECRET PROJECT, HUH...?

I WORK IN THE PHARMACEUTICAL BRANCH.

NATSUO.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

FU-FU. AWFULLY LIGHT-HEARTED ABOUT IT.

LET'S DESTROY. DESTROY IT ALL.

SURE, LET'S DO IT.

YUP. A CONTRACT BETWEEN OUR VERY DNA.

A RITUAL CREATING AN IRRESISTIBLE BOND WITH A SEKIREI.

A CONTRACT?

SO HOW DO WE DESTROY IT ALL?

JUST FORM A CONTRACT WITH ME.

OH, IT'S QUITE SIMPLE.

DO YOU HAVE THE COURAGE...

...TO DO THAT, NATSUO?

YEAH. THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY SCARY ABOUT YOU.

HEH HEH.

YOU SURE KNOW HOW TO FLATTER A GIRL.

CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL LIKE I'M BEING BEWITCHED BY THE DEVIL.

...FU-FU.

YOU'RE A SCARY ONE.

I LOVE IT.

...FU-FU.

I THINK YOU'LL MAKE A GOOD PARTNER.

YOU'RE AN INTERESTING ONE, NATSUO.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME...?

...AH, BUT FIRST...

A BLACK ANGEL.
AND I GAVE HER WINGS.
...UNTIL WE END THIS WORLD.
...OR AT LEAST...
THANKS, NATSUO.
TOGETHER FOREVER.

THANKS, NATSUO.
TOGETHER FOREVER.

A BLACK ANGEL.
AND I GAVE HER WINGS.
...UNTIL WE END THIS WORLD.
...OR AT LEAST...

WHICH WILL IT BE.....?

OR WILL I JUST LAUGH ABOUT IT...?

I WONDER IF I'LL EVENTUALLY COME TO REGRET THIS, ONCE I FALL DOWN INTO HELL...?

WHY'D YOU BOND WITH BLACK?

TELL ME, NATSUO!

HEY, HEY!

NAH. I DON'T FEEL LIKE TELLING YOU.

WHAT?

BUT WHY? WHY?

Sekirei 12-End

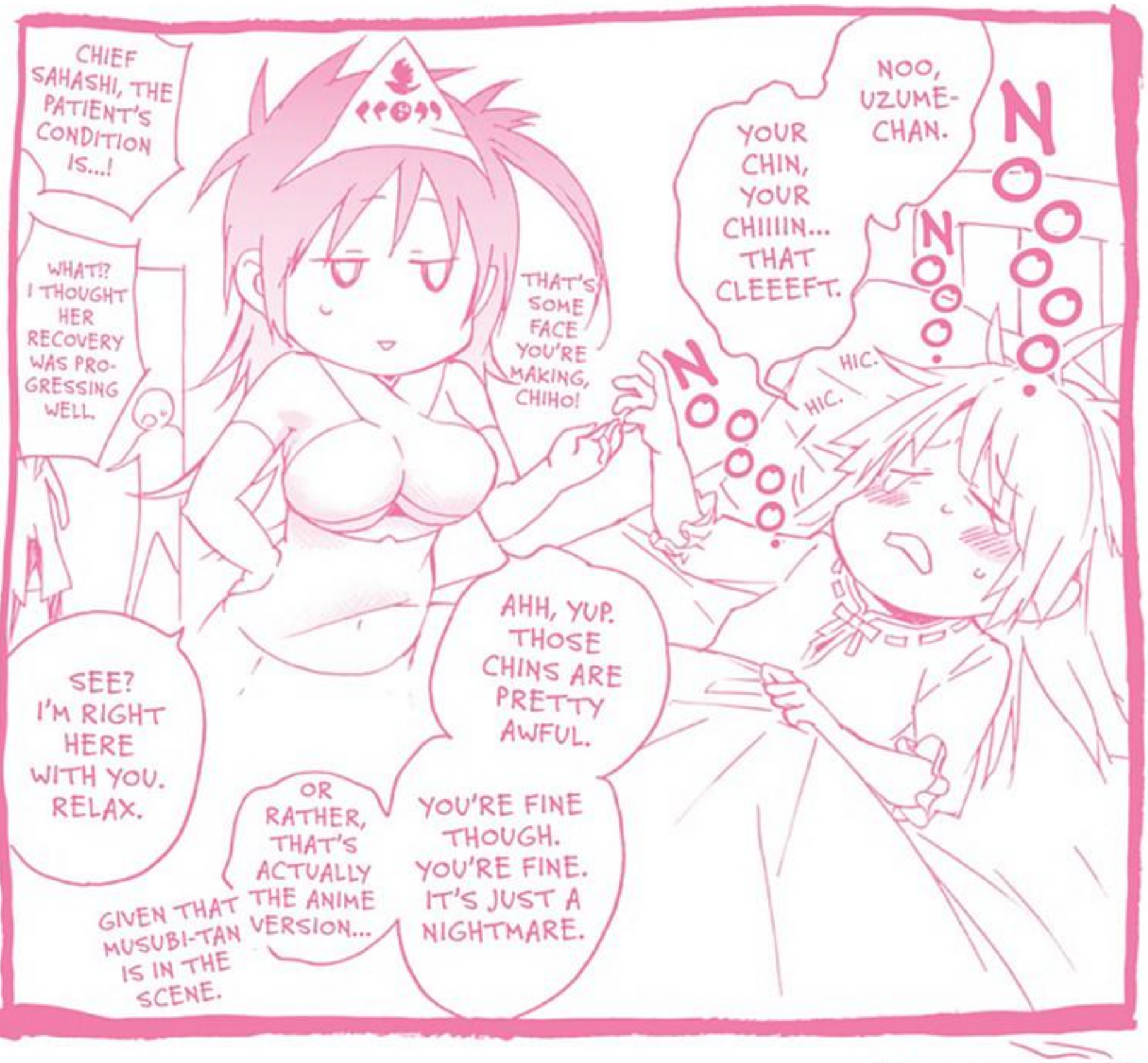
SEE YOU IN
VOLUME 13!

NOOOOO-
OOOOO-
OOOOO
UZUME-
EEEE
TAKE CARE OF... CHIHO...
SLUMP

THOSE MANLY MEN...

...CAN SHOW UP ANYWHERE...

THE EVER-SPREADING NIGHTMARE...



Translation Notes

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

Page 57 - Minato's wagtail T-shirt
The Japanese wagtail is a common species of bird that prefers freshwater environments. The Japanese name for it, *sekirei*, also happens to be the title of the series.

Page 88 - Takama-ga-hara
In Shinto mythology, this is the place where the gods dwell.

Page 117 - Kuno/No Good
Kuno's name sounds very similar to *munou*, which means "incompetence."

Page 121 - Ame-no-iwafune
In Shinto mythology, a ship made of stone that brought gods down to earth.

Page 135 - *Hannya*
The *hannya* is a classical Noh theater mask that resembles a horned demon. It's also the intimidating "aura" face that often appears behind Miya when she's angry.

Page 136 - Sanada of the West/Nishi Sanada
Sanada's given name, Nishi, means "west," and he's also the Western Ashikabi, hence the pun on his name.

SEKIREI ⓬

Sakurako Gokurakuin

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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